

April - May, 2024

# BC MENTAL HEALTH ACT INFOBITS

Bi-monthly MHA news, tips and resources



Extended leave is available to patients receiving treatment under the MHA as a means to ensure their earliest opportunity for release from hospital & return to community living. When conditions of extended leave are not being met, a recall to a designated facility may be initiated. Not all occasions under which a patient has returned to a designated facility are considered recall. This issue discusses the distinctions.

## RECALL TO HOSPITAL

A recall of an involuntary patient is initiated via Form 21, Director's Warrant for Recall.

- If Form 21 is used to return a patient to designated facility if they have breached a condition of leave and meet the 3 recall criteria, this is a recall.
- The Form is required to be completed before contacting the local police agency and emergency/ psychiatric emergency departments.
- A recall could be initiated in community or a non-MHA designated facility.

Return of a patient to a designated facility without a Director's Warrant is not considered a recall.

- If a person on extended leave is taken to or self-presents to a designated facility without a Form 21 for medication administration or for other psychiatric treatment, this is not a recall.



TO LEARN MORE:



[Clinical Practice Direction -  
When Form 20 Is  
Appropriate](#)

NEW!

Recall Quick Guide:

- Recall [From Extended  
Leave](#)



## General Recall

- A patient can only be recalled if the physician has been authorized on the Form 20 and has determined:
  - requires treatment in a designated facility,
  - requires care, supervision and control in a designated facility to prevent the patient's substantial deterioration or for the protection of the patient or others,
  - will not voluntarily return to a designated facility.
- Form 21 must be in place
- Patient must remain in the designated facility until a psychiatric assessment can be performed
- If new medication or therapy is introduced, new Form 5 is required

## Recall for Medication Administration Only

- Form 21 must be in place
- Recall is for a very short time; does not include an overnight or multi-day stay
- Continue to assess if the person needs greater psychiatric care and treatment
- If new medication is introduced, new Form 5 is required

## Recalled Patient Discharge to Extended Leave

- If a person has been on extended leave for longer than 6 months, the date that person was returned to the designated facility is the new date to calculate renewals
- If the person was on extended leave for longer than 6 months, a new Form 20 is required before they are discharged back onto extended leave.

OUR JULY, 2023  
ISSUE OF MHA  
INFOBITS  
COVERED  
EXTENDED  
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- Form 20 must be completed before the person is discharged from the designated facility if it is a general recall or if the person was recalled for medication administration only and was on extended leave for more than 6 months.
- A Form 20 is not required if the person was recalled just for medication administration and they were on extended leave for less than 6 months.
- A Cerner note is needed to explain reason why the Form 20 was not completed before the person was discharged from the designated facility.
- Form 20 cannot be back dated.
- If a Form 21 was not completed, **it is not a recall. Therefore a new Form 20 is not required.**

NEW!

MHA Infobits has gone bi-monthly - find issues with more extended content on the third week of every other month

[MHA Intranet Page](#)

QUESTIONS AND SUPPORTS?

Email: [MHASupport@IslandHealth.ca](mailto:MHASupport@IslandHealth.ca)

- Have BC MHA-related questions? Have an idea for a future newsletter topic? Reach out to: [MHASupport@islandhealth.ca](mailto:MHASupport@islandhealth.ca)
- Resources, practice support tools & past INFOBITS issues - [click here](#)

*MHA Resource Team*