

Mental Health & Substance Use Update

Introducing the Mental Health Act Resource Team!

This new and unique team has been brought together this fall to help action the recommendations of the Office of the Ombudsperson to improve how Island Health protects the rights of medically certified patients under the Mental Health Act (MHA). The team consists of Dr. Lonn Myronuk as the MHA Physician Lead, a Clinical Nurse Educator, a MHSU Data Quality Coordinator, Mental Health Records Quality Assurance Lead, a Program Clerk, 6 MHA Process Support Team members and a Strategic Initiatives Manager.

The team will be visiting all Island Health MHA designated sites between now and January 2024 with an emphasis on supporting physician and staff education needs and helping to implement use of the new Mental Health Act medical certificates (Forms 4.1 and 4.2). The team will also be dedicated to assisting operations to connect medically certified patients to Independent rights advisers once that provincial service begins in early 2024.

For information, please feel free to email: MHASupport at MHASupport@islandhealth.ca.

Please check out the [Mental Health Act \(islandhealth.ca\)](https://islandhealth.ca/mental-health-act) intranet site frequently for helpful MHA resources and new tools to support use of the new Forms 4.1 & 4.2.

Hey! Do you have an exciting MHSU update? Have you heard about some really good news lately? Are you interested in sharing something with your MHSU team? Send your submissions to Steve Anderson for inclusion in the next MHSU update!

Email: stephen.anderson@islandhealth.ca



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New Guidelines Support Staff When Unregulated Substances are Brought into Acute Care Facilities

Island Health is committed to providing care that is safe and accessible to all people including those who use substances. Two new Guidelines (linked below) help inform staff in acute care settings on what to do when unregulated substances are brought into acute care settings.

[Possession of Decriminalized Substances: Acute Care](#)

[Storage and Handling of Decriminalized Substances: Acute Care](#)

In most cases, people who bring substances into a care setting will maintain possession of those substances for the duration of admission unless otherwise indicated by site-specific restrictions and/or the individualized care plan. In most settings, IH will no longer confiscate, remove, destroy or turn over to police any unregulated substance without prior consent of the patient.

Check the staff intranet [Caring for People Who Use Substances](#) for links to resources and education modules to support you in applying a harm reduction approach while ensuring safety for all. For more information on the application of Decriminalization within Island Health, read the [Decriminalization FAQ](#).

Questions? Email the Decriminalization team: Decriminalization@islandhealth.ca.

Celebrations of Excellence!



NRGH would like to show their appreciation to **Chris BigelowNutthall** and **Carol Zanette!** Chris and Carol were awarded Celebrations of Excellence for developing processes that support individuals who use substances prior to, during, and after surgery. Their passion and dedication to supporting staff and patients is contagious and there is great work happening! Congratulations Chris and Carol!

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Seven Oaks Tertiary - Demonstration site for Schizophrenia Quality Standards

Something positive to add from Seven Oaks Tertiary is that we are one of 4 sites in Canada that have been selected as a demonstration site in a project in conjunction with the Mental Health Commission of Canada and Ontario Shores.

The MHCC and Ontario Shores have collaborated to expand the implementation of Health Quality Ontario's Schizophrenia Quality Standards (the Standards) to sites across Canada. The two Standards, which are informed by best practices/best evidence, and guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), are measurable and will help guide future actions surrounding care for folk with schizophrenia. They include a series of 11 statements on the care of adults with schizophrenia in hospital and 15 statements on the care of adults with schizophrenia in the community.

The 18 month project is supported by the MHCC and Ontario shores including tools, education, training, and change management support to enable sites to implement the Standards. The project has potential to positively impact MHSU programming across Island Health with the intention for Seven Oaks to act as a champion for change throughout Island Health, BC and Canada.



For those interested, here is a link to the Standards:

[Schizophrenia - Quality Statement 1: Comprehensive Interprofessional Assessment - Health Quality Ontario \(HQO\) \(hqontario.ca\)](https://www.hqontario.ca/schizophrenia-quality-statement-1-comprehensive-interprofessional-assessment)