



BC MENTAL HEALTH ACT INFOBITS

Monthly MHA news, tips and resources



EXTENDED LEAVE UNDER THE MHA

Extended leave is a client-centered therapeutic intervention used to ensure an involuntary patient has the earliest possible opportunity for release from hospital, and to enhance their potential for community living through the provision for treatment compliance once out of hospital. This issue will consider what is needed to support an involuntary patient through this transition of care.

HIGHLIGHT

MHA FORM 20 is used to authorize extended leave for a patient. When on extended leave patients are expected to meet the specific conditions of their leave while continuing with treatment in the community.

MHA FORM 20:

- Is filled when planning has been done to support the patient in the community
- Outlines conditions of patient leave from a designated facility for 14 days or longer
- Authorizes a community physician to continue involuntary psychiatric treatment for the patient while they are on leave
- A new Form 20 must be completed with each renewal of involuntary status, change of leave conditions or change of community physician involved
- If a patient's status under the MHA expires, Form 20 cannot be renewed in the community - a readmission to a designated facility will be required

WHO CAN COMPLETE THE FORM?

- Physicians fully licensed to practice in BC
- For persons on leave: The physician who is authorized on the current Form 20

EDUCATION TOOLS & RESOURCES

- [Extended Leave Quick Guide](#)
- [Maintaining Leave](#)
- [MHA Online Module](#)

AUTHORIZING EXTENDED LEAVE



WHEN A PATIENT IS READY TO CONTINUE THEIR TREATMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Ensure the community/receiving physician can accept & continue psychiatric treatment while the patient is on leave prior to completing the form.

The physician who will continue treatment in the community must not be the same person as who signs as the MHA director or delegate

The form must be completed prior to the patient leaving the designated facility. Discharge of the patient without a Form 20 cancels the person's involuntary status under the MHA**

Patients must be notified of the conditions of their leave from the designated facility. If the patient chooses to decline signing the form, add a brief note

** The next MHA Infobits issue will discuss Recall from Extended Leave & the required completion of forms

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

MHA Resource Team