Government of **Western Australia**
Mental Health Commission

You have the right to:

- receive information about your rights and to have your questions answered
- a physical examination after being admitted to hospital
- an interview with a psychiatrist
- make someone a nominated person
- a treatment, support and discharge plan
- contact people by mail, phone or electronically and be visited (this right may be restricted)
- privacy and confidentiality
- access your medical records (this right may be restricted)
- keep your personal possessions securely while you are in hospital
- a further opinion from another psychiatrist - you can ask your psychiatrist, or the Chief Psychiatrist (t: 6553 0000) to arrange this
- access the Mental Health Advocacy Service (t: 1800 999 057). A mental health advocate will automatically contact you within 7 days (24 hours for children) of you becoming an involuntary patient
- make a complaint to your mental health service or the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) (t: 1800 813 583)
- have your case reviewed by the Mental Health Tribunal (t: 08 6553 0060). The Tribunal will schedule a hearing within 5 weeks (10 days for children) of you becoming an involuntary patient.

Further information

The information in this brochure relates to the laws set out in the *Mental Health Act 2014*. Information about the Act is summarised in the following set of brochures:

- Being referred to a psychiatrist for an examination
- Inpatient treatment orders
- Community treatment orders
- Information for voluntary patients
- Receiving treatment for a mental illness
- Information for personal support persons
- Nominated persons: how to make a nomination and what it means.

Other brochures are available from:

- The Mental Health Tribunal
- The Mental Health Advocacy Service
- The Mental Health Law Centre.

For more information about the *Mental Health Act 2014* and other resources, visit the Mental Health Commission website: www.mhc.wa.gov.au or phone (08) 6553 0600.

This document can be made available in other languages and alternative formats on request.

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Inpatient treatment orders

An inpatient treatment order (Form 6A or 6B) is an order under the Mental Health Act 2014 for you to receive treatment as an involuntary patient in a hospital.

This brochure provides you with information about what your rights are and what you can expect if you are on an inpatient treatment order.

Why was the inpatient treatment order made?

If you are on an inpatient treatment order (Form 6A or 6B) this is because a psychiatrist examined you and decided that:

- you have a mental illness that requires treatment,
- there is a significant risk of yourself or another person if you do not get treatment,
- you are not well enough to be able to make a decision about treatment,
- the treatment in the community is not a viable option under the circumstances, and
- there is no less restrictive way of providing you with treatment other than an inpatient treatment order.

What does the inpatient treatment order mean to you?

An inpatient treatment order means that:

- you will be admitted to the hospital named on the order,
- you will receive treatment for your mental illness at that hospital, and
- you will not be allowed to leave the hospital until the inpatient treatment order ends (or unless you are granted leave).

The difference between the Form 6A and 6B is the type of hospital that you are admitted to. A Form 6B will only be used if your physical health is at serious risk and you need to be in a hospital that can treat your physical condition.

Do you get a say in the treatment you receive?

You will always be asked for your consent (agreement) before being given treatment. However, being an involuntary patient means that if necessary, you can be given treatment without your consent. Your treating team will take your wishes into account when making decisions about the treatment you get and you will also be involved in developing your treatment, support and discharge plan.

Are you allowed to leave the hospital?

You will not necessarily spend time in a locked ward, however, you cannot leave the hospital without permission. If you do leave, a staff member, transport officer or the police can return you to the hospital.

You can ask your psychiatrist for leave from the hospital. The psychiatrist may agree if this will help your recovery and it is safe for you to be away from hospital. He or she must check with your carer/family first. You must return to the hospital when your leave ends. If you do not, a staff member, transport officer or the police can take you back to the hospital.

How long does an inpatient treatment order last?

An inpatient treatment order can last for up to **21 days** for adults or **14 days** for children (under 18 years or age).

In the last week of the order, the psychiatrist will examine you again and decide whether the order needs to be continued. A psychiatrist can continue the order for up to **3 months** for adults and **28 days** for children. The order can be continued as many times as necessary until you are well enough to no longer need involuntary treatment in hospital.

How does the inpatient treatment order end?

At any time while you are a patient, the psychiatrist can decide that:

- you no longer need to be an involuntary patient and you can either stay as a voluntary patient or leave the hospital, or
- that you can now receive treatment in the community on a community treatment order.

You must be discharged and allowed to leave if:

- your inpatient treatment order expires and is not continued, or
- the Mental Health Tribunal reviews your case and decides that you no longer need to be an involuntary patient in hospital.