



Mental Health Commission Rules

Reference Number: R-S69(2)/02/2009

Rules Governing the Use of Seclusion and Mechanical Means of Bodily Restraint

ADDENDUM

**Version 2 Addendum
January 2011**

Preamble

The Mental Health Commission is committed to keeping its existing Rules and Codes of Practice under constant review.

Following representations made to the Mental Health Commission by the Department of Health and Children after a visit to Ireland by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), the Commission approved an amendment to the *Rules Governing the Use of Seclusion and Mechanical Means of Bodily Restraint* in January 2011.

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that patients placed in seclusion are adequately observed for the duration of the period of seclusion. The effect of this change is that the monitoring requirements of Version 2 of the Rules are now similar to those which were in place in Version 1 of the Rules.

The date of commencement of this addendum is 1st March 2011.

Amendment to: *Rules Governing the Use of Seclusion and Mechanical Means of Bodily Restraint*

1. Rule 5.1 (b) has been amended. Rule 5.1 now reads as follows:

- a) A patient placed in seclusion must be kept under direct observation by a registered nurse for the first hour following initiation of a seclusion episode.
- b) The patient must be kept under continuous observation thereafter by a registered nurse for the duration of a seclusion episode.

Rules 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6 remain unaltered.