

6 February 2018

Memorandum on Version 5 of the Judgement Support Framework

This memorandum provides you with important information on Version 5 of the Mental Health Commission Judgement Support Framework (JSF). The JSF was revised following a minor, technical review, to correct errors, delete duplications and clarify points of ambiguity.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your thoughtful and constructive submissions to the JSF consultation.

We invited all services to contribute to this review, and were encouraged by the level of engagement shown and the obvious multi-disciplinary input included within the submissions.

We reviewed all of the responses submitted in detail and noted a few points that require further thought and analysis. While outside of the scope of this minor and technical review, we have taken these points on board and will continue to review these submissions throughout 2018. We would welcome your ongoing input to this review and will engage with services directly on specific proposals.

Changes to the Judgement Support Framework

A record of amendments has been produced which provides a detailed account of every amendment incorporated into the JSF. As in 2017, this review of was structured so that there would be minimal amendments requiring changes in practices or resulting in additional obligations to services. However, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

Medication:

A number of changes have been made to the criteria under *Regulation 23: Ordering, Storing, Prescribing and Administration of Medicines*. These changes should more closely align the JSF to the requirements of medication regulations and relevant professional bodies. It is important to note that the JSF does not purport to replace or replicate these requirements in full and cannot be relied upon as a guidance document for compliance with any other bodies or regulations.

General Health Assessments:

We have now provided guidance and set standards on the minimum expectations for a six-monthly general health assessment provided pursuant to *Regulation 19(1)(b): General Health*.

19.4.7 At a minimum, the six monthly general health assessment documents the following:

- *Physical examination*
- *Family/Personal history*
- *BMI, weight and waist circumference*
- *Blood pressure*
- *Smoking status*
- *Nutritional status (diet and physical activity, incl. sedentary lifestyle)*
- *Medication review (per prescriber guidelines)*

- *Dental health*

19.4.8. *For residents on antipsychotic medication, there must be an annual assessment of the following unless more regular review is indicated by physical examination:*

- *Glucose regulation (Fasting glucose / HbA1c)*
- *Blood lipids*
- *ECG*
- *Prolactin*

The importance of assessing and meeting physical health needs in an in-patient setting, particularly for long-stay residents, cannot be overstated. All residents of approved centres should have access to physical healthcare services in line with their assessed needs; this cannot be delivered without a comprehensive general health assessment.

The requirements included in the JSF are minimum requirements aligned with international best practice. Further assessment and investigations should be undertaken as indicated.

Minor amendments

Minor amendments, relating largely to formatting and grammar, have been included in the second table. These have been included as part of our own review and 'tidy-up' of the document. It is not envisaged that these changes will require any action by services, but are included for transparency.

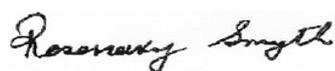
Implementation

The revised JSF will be inspected against as part of the 2018 regulatory inspections. Changes to the JSF do not have any retrospective effect and will not be applied to any findings of the Inspector of Mental Health Services prior to the date of commencement.

As with all quality initiatives, we are cognisant of the importance of continuous monitoring, review and improvement. We always welcome queries, comments and suggestions on the JSF. These can be submitted to standards@mhcir.ie.

The revised JSF will be available on the Mental Health Commission website from 7 February 2018: www.mhcirl.ie/for_H_Prof/Guidance/JSF/.

Again, I wish to thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Judgement Support Framework and the ultimate shared goal of consistently providing high quality, recovery focused, person-centred mental health services.



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