Memorandum for Services on Version 5.1 of the Judgement Support Framework

This memorandum provides you with important information on Version 5.1 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.

The Mental Health Commission have reviewed the JSF and have identified a limited number of changes to be made to the JSF in 2020, taking into consideration comments received from approved centres.

Changes to the Judgement Support Framework

This review has been structured so that there would be minimal amendments requiring changes in practices or resulting in additional obligations to services.

I would like to draw your attention to the following:

**Regulation 19: General Health Assessments**

A change has been made under Regulation 19: General Health Assessments:

Under 4.7.3. concerning six monthly assessments of BMI, weight and waist circumference, the following addition has been made “(This excludes routine waist circumference measurements in CAMHS settings and where there is a documented clinical reason for not doing so in an adult setting)”

This change was made to reflect best practice which indicates that routine waist circumference measurements are not advised in CAMHS settings and where there is a documented clinical reason for not doing so in an adult setting.

This amendment does not introduce any additional regulatory obligation.

**Regulation 23: Ordering, Storing, Prescribing and Administration of Medicines**

The following change has been made under Regulation 23: Ordering, Storing, Prescribing and Administration of Medicines:
“4.3. The generic name of the medication and preparation (where applicable)” has been amended to correct the text by including the word “or” instead of “and” in order to clarify the intended meaning of the clause.

**Regulation 26: Staffing**

The following change has been made under *Regulation 26: Staffing*:

Section 4.13.5 has been removed and the wording of Section 4.14 has been altered to read as follows: “All mandated persons in approved centres are trained in Children First”. These changes remove any duplication from these sections and bring the requirements of this section into line with legislative requirements under the Children First Act 2015.

**Regulation 28: Register of Residents**

The following change has been made under *Regulation 28: Register of Residents*:

Under Section 4.1, the section relating to “ethnic or cultural background” has been removed. This follows on foot of a December 2019 memorandum to services from the Mental Health Commission regarding the requirements of the regulation which clarified that this information was no longer required.

**Implementation**

The revised JSF will be inspected against as part of the 2020 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@mhcirl.ie.

The revised JSF will be available on the Mental Health Commission website from 24 January 2020: 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.

Ms Rosemary Smyth  
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Mental Health Commission