

Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Serious Incident Review Sub-Committee Learnings Summary: April - June 2024

This document provides a summary of learnings arising from the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Serious Incident Review (SIR) Sub-Committee meetings held April - June 2024.

Services should review this summary to determine which learnings are relevant locally, and whether further local action is required.

Handover and documentation

Use of short-cuts such as 'cut and paste' in clinical records may have serious clinical consequences and lead to negative outcomes for clinicians and consumers.	My Health Learning: A Copy & Paste in the eMR video (Course code: 507295360) is available in My Health Learning . The video informs staff of the potential dangers of using copy and paste inaccurately and the best practices to use when utilising copy and paste.
--	--

Care planning

- A care plan must be individualised and reflect the holistic needs of the consumer and other members of the household. Pre-completed, generic templates should be avoided.
- 'Discharge rules' or contracts should not be applied in a universal and inflexible fashion. Careful consideration of risks and a thorough assessment of the appropriateness of any 'discharge rule' or contracts for individual consumers is to be considered.
- When a consumer's first presentation is in later life, careful consideration of what education is required for the consumer, their family, and carers is required.
- When a consumer is a clinician employed at the service, extra diligence is required to provide an objective assessment and treatment process.
- Youth experiencing suicidal ideation and deliberate self-harm should be offered psychotherapy with relevant and robust evidence base for suicidality and self-harm.
- Improved collaboration between specialties reduces the risk of poor clinical outcomes.

Alcohol and other drugs comorbidities

• When appropriate, clinicians should explore opportunities for providing consumers with take home naloxone and education on the risks of drug harm or overdose.	Relevant NSW Health Policy: Take home Naloxone (PD2020_027)
• For incidents involving consumers with alcohol and other drugs comorbidities specialist representation is required on the SAER team to ensure the incident is thoroughly investigated, and to enable development of appropriately informed recommendations. • Consistent and considered management of drug and alcohol affected patients across the state is important. • Clinician understanding of local and available alcohol and other drug treatment programs and brief interventions should be standard practice.	

We value your feedback. If you have any questions or comments about this report, please email CEC-PatientSafety@health.nsw.gov.au