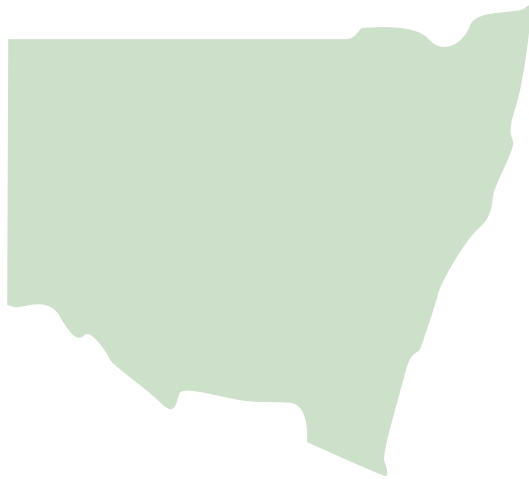


We want to
keep **improving**
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health services
throughout NSW.



Who will this information be made available to

The information that you record in the clinical modules becomes part of the client's medical record and will be treated with the same level of confidentiality.

The collection, storage and analysis of all data under the MH-OAT protocols adheres to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.

What if I have other questions or concerns

All clinical staff will receive MH-OAT training. However, if you have any questions, you should contact your MH-OAT coordinator in your Area Health Service or email:

mhoat@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

For more information on MH-OAT, other health related topics, publications and circulars or for a complete listing of all Area Health Services go to the NSW Health website:

www.health.nsw.gov.au

The NSW MH-OAT Initiative

Better mental health care

Information for
Health Professionals

We want to keep **improving the quality** of our **mental health services** throughout NSW. To achieve this, we need to **perform thorough mental health assessments, document** these assessments in a standardised way and **measure the effectiveness or outcomes** of the care provided.

To better understand and address the needs of our clients and to better plan the care of our clients or patients, we need to record the mental health assessments and care plans in a consistent manner across the state and then measure the effectiveness or outcomes of the care provided.

These objectives have resulted in the development of the **Mental Health Outcomes Assessment Tools (MH-OAT) initiative**.

What MH-OAT aims to do

- Strengthen the assessment skills of mental health workers.
- Introduce standard clinical documentation (clinical modules) to ensure that assessments and care plans are clearly and accurately recorded.
- Introduce regular recording of standardised measures of outcomes and casemix.

In time, we hope that MH-OAT will ensure that all mental health assessments will be recorded consistently and that mental health staff will have

a better understanding of the mental health status and needs of their clients. MH-OAT will enhance the clinical information available to improve care and allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of care provided.

What MH-OAT means to you

- You will receive the equivalent of two days training in mental health assessment and outcomes.
- You will be provided with a standard format (clinical modules) to document the way you work. These include standard clinical modules for triage, assessment, care planning and discharge.
- You will be expected to collect routine standardised measures of outcomes and casemix on admission, review and discharge of clients (*see Circular 2001/53*).

What MH-OAT is **NOT**

- **The clinical modules used to record your assessments and care planning are NOT scripts for a structured interview.** The assessment modules are forms for documenting information collected in a standardised format. The way in which assessment information is obtained from the patient/family/other informant(s) should be appropriate for the particular clinical presentation.
- **These clinical modules are NOT data collection forms.** These modules will become part of the client's medical record as it replaces the clinical notes and like the current medical record, part of the information is collected in electronic systems for analysis of service delivery.
- **All clinical modules are NOT implemented and completed at the same time.**

Clinical judgement is the main consideration in determining the relevant modules to be used.

What are standardised outcome measures

Standardised measures are standardised tools that are used to collect routine data on outcomes of care and the casemix of our clients using a standardised protocol. There are clinician rated measures and consumer rated measures.

Clinician rated measures

Clinician rated measures are completed after a client has been assessed on admission, review or discharge from care. These measures include the Health of the Nation Outcomes Scales (HoNOS, HoNOSCA and HoNOS65), Life Skills Profile (LSP), Resource Utilisation Groups of Activities of Daily Living (RUG-ADL), Factors Influencing Health Status (FIHS) and Children's Global Assessment Functioning Scale (CGAS).

Consumer rated measures

Consumers will be asked to complete a measure (a questionnaire) on how they feel. The adult consumer measure is the Kessler-10 (K10) and the child and adolescent measure is the Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ). It provides information on how the client feels, how well they are able to cope with their usual activities and how they rate their own mental health. This measure will be available in other community languages. If a client chooses not to complete the measure, it will not affect the treatment that they receive.