



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Resources - Endorsed for Use in Clinical Practice Policy

1. Background

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) seeks to provide direction and guidance to all staff through the availability of appropriate evidence based guidelines and procedures. It is envisaged that this information will assist in the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation in meeting current legislation and the key principles of quality improvement.

2. Policy Statement

WA health system policy documents are the overarching policy documents that must be complied with by all WA health system staff. To complement these documents, WACHS has endorsed specific policies, guidelines and procedures covering a range of issues related to clinical practice. WA health system and WACHS policy documents are available via the [HealthPoint Policies](#) intranet site.

In addition, the WACHS endorses a number of relevant evidence based resources from other WA Health Service Providers and organisations external to the WA health system for use in clinical practice.

WACHS endorses the following ten (10) **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Resources** as evidence-based recommended practice for use by Clinicians working with children and adolescents accessing regional services for mental health presentations.

1. [Clinical Assessment Policy](#)
2. [Risk Assessment and Management Policy](#)
3. [Physical Health Assessment and Monitoring Policy](#)
4. [Managing Clinical Risk After Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse Procedure](#)
5. [Psychotropic medication – monitoring adverse physical health effects Policy](#)
6. [Patient Rights under the Mental Health Act Policy](#)
7. [Mental Health Act Legal Orders and Notifications Policy](#)
8. [Sexual Safety Guideline](#)
9. [Transitions in Care Procedure](#)
10. [Consent Procedure](#) (including [CAMHS Consent principles and best practice guideline](#)).

External sources that are endorsed for use in WACHS clinical practice provide a standard for clinical governance and service delivery, and provide a range of information and evidence-based practice to support best practice by all staff for country health patients and clients.

When applied, the information contained in these resources must take account of the context and scope of practice, level of service delivery and facility capacity.

Policy documents are to be read and followed for their principles and intent rather than literal wording, such as: Choice and Partnership Approach (CAPA) references in these documents.

Where it is not a mandatory requirement under legislation or Statewide policy, the endorsed policy documents do not indicate an exclusive course of action or serve as a definitive mode of patient care. Variations that take into account individual circumstances, clinical judgement, scope of professional practice and patient choice, may be appropriate dependent on the health care setting.

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these resources, no guarantee can be given that the information is free from error or omission. Users are strongly recommended to confirm by way of independent sources, that the information contained within these resources is correct, especially drug doses that may change from time of publication.

Please note the web-based electronic copy is the master copy for all guidelines, policies and procedures.

3. Policy Reviewers

The **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Resources - Endorsed for Use in Clinical Practice Policy** and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Resources listed in Section 2. Policy Statement were reviewed by the following WACHS subject matter experts:

- WACHS Director of Psychiatry – Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- WACHS Director of Psychiatry – Clinical Governance and Service Improvement
- CAMHS Advisory Group
- Aboriginal Mental Health Coordinator
- Senior Project Officer (Consumer and Carer Engagement)
- Consumer Representative

4. Standards

National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards

1.7, 1.25, 1.27, 1.30, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 5.7, 5.10, 5.11, 5.12, 5.13, 5.31, 5.32, 5.33, 5.34, 8.1, 8.4, 8.5, 8.10, 8.12, 8.13

National Standards for Mental Health Services

1.1, 1.6, 1.7, 1.10, 1.15, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 4.7, 5.10, 5.11, 5.13, 5.31, 5.32, 5.33, 5.34, 6.8, 6.9, 6.10, 8.5, 8.6, 8.12

Chief Psychiatrist's Standards for Clinical Care

5. Legislation

[Mental Health Act \(WA\) 2014 \('MHA'\)](#)
[Clinician's Practice Guide to the Mental Health Act 2014](#)
[Children and Community Services Act 2004](#)
[Criminal Law \(Mentally Impaired Accused\) Act 1996](#)
[Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 \(WA\)](#)
[Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 \(WA\)](#)
[Health Services Act 2016 \(WA\)](#)

6. References

Nil

7. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy document may constitute a breach of the WA Health system MP0031/16 Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (WA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

8. Records Management

All WACHS clinical records must be managed in accordance with [Health Record Management Policy](#).

9. Related Forms

Nil

10. Related Policy Documents

CAMHS [Clinical Assessment Policy](#)
CAMHS [Risk Assessment and Management Policy](#)
CAMHS [Physical Health Assessment and Monitoring Policy](#)
CAMHS [Managing Clinical Risk after Disclosure of Sexual Abuse Guideline](#)
CAMHS [Psychotropic medication – monitoring adverse physical health effects Policy](#)
CAMHS [Patient Rights under the Mental Health Act Policy](#)
CAMHS [Mental Health Act Legal Orders and Notifications Policy](#)
CAMHS [Sexual Safety Guideline](#)
CAMHS [Transitions in Care Procedure](#)
CAMHS [Consent procedure](#) (including CAMHS [Consent principles and best practice guideline](#))

11. Related WA Health System Policies

MP 0074/17 [Clinical Care of People Who May Be Suicidal Policy](#)
MP 0101/18 [Clinical Care of People with Mental Health Problems Who May be at Risk of Becoming Violent or Aggressive Policy](#)
OD 0606/15 [Guidelines for Protecting Children 2015](#)
OD 0657/16 [WA Health Consent to Treatment Policy](#)
CAHS [Statewide Protection of Children Coordination \(SPOCC\) Unit](#)
[Chief Psychiatrist's Guidelines for the Sexual Safety of Consumers of Mental Health Services in WA](#)
[Responding to an Allegation of Sexual Assault Disclosed Within a Public Mental Health Service](#)
[Policy for Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Incidents to the Chief Psychiatrist](#)
[Assessing Capacity to Consent in Minors - A Clinical Handbook](#)
[Principles and Best Practice for the Care of People Who May be Suicidal](#)

12. Policy Framework

[Mental Health Policy Framework](#)
[Clinical Services Planning and Programs Policy Framework - Child Health](#)

13. Variations to Endorsed CAMHS Documents

- References to the term 'Partnership Stage' is to be considered synonymous with 'initial assessment' within WACHS services.
- 'Diagnostic Assessment and Formulation' will be completed when it is within the clinical scope of the attending clinician or on referral to an alternative clinician with the clinical capacity to complete if required.
- There may be variations to the specified mandatory training requirements for WACHS CAMHS staff.
- References to the use of specific CAHS CAMHS templates may not be applicable within WACHS.

14. Roles and Responsibilities

The WACHS Executive Director of Mental Health is responsible for acting as the principal endorsement authority for external organisations' clinical policy documents.

The WACHS Director of Psychiatry, CAMHS is responsible for identifying risk associated with out of date or the need for updated information and initiating the Policy review process at any time outside of the review cycle.

WACHS Regional Directors, Regional Managers, Clinical Directors and WACHS CAMHS Team Leaders are responsible for notifying WACHS Director of Psychiatry, CAMHS of the need for, and participating in the review of external organisations' clinical policy and guideline documents for use by clinicians within the WACHS.

All WACHS clinicians are accountable for their own practice and are to provide care:

- within their registration status
- in accordance with the codes and guidelines approved by their relevant National Board supported by AHPRA
- within their scope of practice and competence
- within their prescribed responsibilities and duties as defined in their Job Description Form (JDF)
- within the context of practice that they are operating and
- practicing in accordance with the endorsed Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAMHS) Resources.

15. Evaluation

Evaluation of this policy and the CAMHS resources endorsed within this policy are to be carried out by the Director of Psychiatry (WACHS-CAMHS) in collaboration with the WACHS Mental Health Policy Steering Committee and the WACHS CAMHS Advisory Group.

The context and content of this policy will be reviewed every 5 years.

The number of reportable clinical incidents or near misses relating to inappropriate care provided by clinicians.

This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with a disability

Contact:	WACHS Director of Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Mental Health		
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