

## Involuntary Patient Admission to the Secure Mental Health Unit, Wilfred Lopes Centre

Purpose	To clarify arrangements for the admission of an involuntary patient who is not a prisoner or youth detainee to the Secure Mental Health Unit (SMHU): Forensic Mental Health, Wilfred Lopes Unit.
Approved form	<a href="#">C19 - Involuntary Patient Transfer to SMHU</a>
What are the appropriate reasons to admit an involuntary non-forensic mental health patient to the SMHU?	<p>When the Chief Psychiatrist (or delegate) is satisfied that by reasons of mental illness the patient is a danger to themselves or others;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AND the danger is or has become so serious as to make the patient's continued detention in the approved facility other than an SMHU untenable OR the danger is so serious as to require continued detention in the SMHU;</li> <li>• AND in the circumstances, a secure mental health unit is the only appropriate place where the patient can be safely detained;</li> <li>• AND the SMHU has the resources to give the person appropriate treatment and care.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the patient is a child</b>, the Chief Psychiatrist (or delegate) is also satisfied that the child can be detained separately to adults, and the probable benefits of accommodating the child in a secure mental health unit outweigh the probable risks.</p>
Who can authorise such admissions?	Chief Psychiatrist (or delegate)
What is the period of detention of an involuntary patient in the SMHU	The Chief Psychiatrist (or delegate) determines the period for which a patient may be detained and may extend the period more than once.
Practice guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This order is designed to ensure that involuntary patients are admitted to SMHU as a last resort, while also protecting the person, the public and the proper delivery of service in approved facilities.</li> <li>• When transporting a person to the SMHU, the person authorised to escort the patient should take any medication, physical aid or other things necessary to the patient's health, safety or welfare, or which is important for the patient's examination, assessment, treatment or care.</li> </ul>
Documentation requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give notice and reasons for admission and the period of detention (together with a statement of rights in an approved form) to the patient.</li> <li>• Give notice of the admission and period of detention to the management of the SMHU and approved facility from which the patient is being transferred.</li> <li>• Give notice of the admission to the Chief Psychiatrist.</li> <li>• Given notice of the admission to Tribunal (TASCAT).</li> </ul>

### Guidance for approved facilities and persons in charge

- Ensure policies and protocols are aligned with this guideline.
- Provide education and training programs that support provisions in this guideline.
- Ensure appropriate documentation is maintained.