

## Urgent Circumstances Treatment

Purpose	To outline the use of Urgent Circumstances Treatment (UCT) provisions under <i>the Mental Health Act 2013</i>
Approved form for this purpose	<a href="#">Urgent Circumstances Treatment C08 – (Approved hospital)</a> <a href="#">Urgent Circumstances Treatment F08 – (SMHU)</a>
Who can authorise UCT?	Approved Medical Practitioner
What are the reasons for using UCT?	A patient receiving involuntary treatment (under an Assessment Order, a Treatment Order or a forensic patient at SMHU) may only be given treatment without informed consent or Tribunal authorisation if an Approved Medical Practitioner (AMP) authorises the treatment as being urgently needed in respect of the patient. The AMP must be satisfied following an assessment that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The treatment is necessary for the patient's health or safety, or the safety of other persons; AND</li> <li>2. Waiting for the treatment to be authorised by the Tribunal would compromise the outcomes or the effectiveness of treatment.</li> </ol>
Meaning of 'treatment'	Treatment is the professional intervention necessary to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent or remedy mental illness; or</li> <li>• Manage and alleviate, where possible, the ill effects of mental illness; or</li> <li>• Reduce the risks that persons with mental illness may, on that account, pose to themselves or others; or</li> <li>• Assess a person's mental state.</li> </ul>
The maximum duration UCT	96 hours from the time the authorisation is made
When must UCT end?	The patient may be given the UCT until one of the following occurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The treatment is completed.</li> <li>• An AMP stops the treatment.</li> <li>• The 96-hour authorisation period expires.</li> <li>• The assessment order, treatment order or interim treatment order ceases or is discharged.</li> </ul>
Practice requirements	Please ensure that the patient is advised of the authorisation before giving UCT. If that is not possible, the patient must be advised as soon as possible after it is given.
Documentation requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the appropriate form.</li> <li>• Provide a copy of the form to the patient and explain in a way that can be understood.</li> <li>• Provide the patient a statement of rights.</li> <li>• Place a copy of the form on the patient's clinical record.</li> <li>• Give a copy of the form to the Chief Psychiatrist and the Tribunal.</li> <li>• Place a copy of the form on the patient's clinical record.</li> <li>• If the patient consents, give a copy to the patient's support person/representative or to the parent/guardian, if the patient is a child.</li> </ul>

### Guidance for approved facilities and persons in charge

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