



Transcript: Involuntary Assessment and Patient Rights

Name	Dialogue / Actions
Richard	<p>Hi, my name's Richard. I'm an authorised mental health practitioner in the Blue Waters Authorised Mental Health Service. Welcome to our eLearning resource on the Mental Health Act 2000. This is the first scenario of the learning resource in which I'll take you through a process for involuntary assessment for a patient called Peter.</p> <p>The scenario starts with Peter and his mother in his general practitioner's office and Peter is telling his General Practitioner that he is stressed. On examination, the General Practitioner observes that Peter is experiencing psychotic symptoms, including hearing voices telling him to do things like jump off a bridge. The General Practitioner offers to make a referral to the local authorised mental health service to help with stopping the voices. However, Peter became extremely agitated at this suggestion and shouted that he would not go to an authorised mental health service or see a mental health clinician. He said that he would just go home and take more vitamins, which would make him feel better. After encouragement from the General Practitioner and his mother, Peter agrees to wait in the waiting room while his mother talks to his General Practitioner about treatment and management options. We will now watch this story unfold in Peter's General Practitioner's surgery.</p>
Peter	Look I can't concentrate right now; can you just talk to mum about this while I go outside?
GP Frank	Is that all right with you Elaine?
Elaine	Well actually that's fine, there are some questions that I need to ask as I was unsure what to do after a discussion that I had with Peter this morning.
GP Frank	All right Peter, if you'd just like to go and wait in the waiting room and watch some television, we won't be long.
Peter	Okay, thanks for that.
GP Frank	Just a moment Elaine, I'll ring reception and let them know Peter's coming through. Hello, yes, Peter's on his way to wait in the waiting room. Yes, yes, if he's looking anxious at all or if he looks like he wants to leave, you can just let me know I'll come out straight away. All right, thankyou.
Elaine	He's really not very well. It's great that he decided to come and see you here today, but I really think that he needs mental health help quickly. He's getting worse and he's not happy to go to a hospital or to even a community mental health service.
GP Frank	I agree. I believe Peter needs to be taken to an authorised mental health service for assessment. In order to authorise this there are two forms that need to be completed, one by me and one that can be completed by you. I can complete the <i>recommendation for assessment</i> , which must be completed by a doctor or an authorised mental health practitioner who must have seen the person in the past 3 days. Peter must also meet a number of criteria. Given that:



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- He appears to have a mental illness.- And there are risks to himself that you have both identified, such as the voices telling him to jump off the bridge.- He definitely needs an immediate assessment. He's refused to be assessed by me this morning and he's refused to be assessed by the authorised mental health service voluntarily.- I believe there's no less restrictive way to have him seen.- <p>So I'm quite comfortable that I should complete the form.</p>
Elaine	Well that's a relief. And what form do I need to complete?
GP Frank	<p>The form you need to complete is a request for assessment. It's fairly straightforward. If you agree that Peter should be taken to the authorised mental health service for assessment, you need to complete Peter's details and then outline on the form why you believe he has a mental illness and requires assessment and that you've observed him in the past 3 days. And then you need to complete your details and sign it, okay.</p> <p>So, this form and the recommendation for assessment together will enable a health practitioner or an ambulance officer to transport Peter to the authorised mental health service for assessment, all right.</p>
GP Frank	<p>So I'll just make a phone call to the authorised mental health service to advise them of the need to assist with transport of Peter for an assessment. And when you've finished the request, I'll fax both of these forms with Peter's notes through to the authorised mental health service so that they've got his details, okay.</p>
Elaine	I've completed the form.
GP Frank	<p>Good, thank you.</p> <p>So, I'll just get these two forms faxed off to the authorised mental health service. They've actually got two health practitioners on their way now, which is very helpful. And once I fax them off, we'll get Peter back in here to have a discussion about what's happening. Is that all right? Okay. Excuse me. Hello?</p>
Receptionist	Peter's just left the waiting room and started running down the street.
GP Frank	Thanks, could you just go out on the footpath and see if you can see which way he went. Thankyou, okay.
Elaine	He hasn't gone has he?
GP Frank	<p>It appears that way Elaine, but I'd suggest he went home, you don't live too far from here and he did say he feels safe there. I'll give these forms to the health practitioners from the authorised mental health service when they arrive. Here's their number, if he is at home you can call them. All right, so they can arrange the same process but from your home, okay.</p>
Elaine	And will those forms need to be done again?



Transcript: Involuntary Assessment and Patient Rights

GP Frank	No, the recommendation for assessment remains in force for 7 days Elaine. So let's just go to reception and see if they can tell us which way he went okay.
Richard	<p>The process for Peter's involuntary assessment has commenced. I'll summarise what happened from here to Peter's arrival at the authorised mental health service.</p> <p>The General Practitioner contacted the authorised mental health service and advised them that Peter had left the surgery and that his mother Elaine would phone if she found him at home. Elaine subsequently phoned and advised that Peter was at the address on the request and recommendation for assessment forms. It was decided that in addition to two health practitioners going to Peter's house to escort him to the authorised mental health service, police assistance was required due to Peter's previous unpredictable behaviour. A request for police assistance was completed by a health practitioner from the authorised mental health service and faxed through to police and followed up with a phone call to try to establish a time to meet at Peter's house. A phone call was then made to Peter's mum to inform her of what was happening and she was also informed that Peter can only be involuntarily assessed at an authorised mental health service. She was also informed that police assistance had been requested to help due to Peter being unknown to the mental health service and potential risk issues.</p>
Richard	<p>The health practitioners attended Peter's house with the police. Peter was advised that the assessment documents were in force and he accompanied the health practitioners to the authorised mental health service for involuntary assessment. When they arrived at the authorised mental health service, the original request for assessment and recommendation for assessment documents were given to a health service employee at the authorised mental health service. This person completed details of the date and time the assessment forms were received on the recommendation for assessment form and signed this form. Peter was then detained at the authorised mental health service for involuntary assessment. It was explained to Peter that he could initially be detained for 24 hours. However, that period could be extended but Peter must not be detained for assessment for more than 72hrs. Peter was provided with a copy of the brochure Your rights as an involuntary patient (the statement of rights) and Your right to choose an Allied Person. The main points of the statement of rights were discussed to ensure he understood his rights as a patient and the rights of allied persons under the Mental Health Act 2000. The brochure on Becoming an Allied Person was given to him so that he could pass it onto the person he chose to be his Allied Person.</p> <p>If the health practitioner believed that Peter had not understood his rights, a record of this must be made in Peter's clinical file and the information must be explained again to him when he's well enough.</p>