



Transcript: Limited Community Treatment

Richard	<p>Hi again. Richard here. In the previous two scenarios, Peter was assessed and placed under an ITO as he met the treatment criteria in the Mental Health Act. I will now take up this scenario 2 weeks later. By this time, Peter had settled into the unit and was not hearing voices to the same extent. In addition, Peter told his treating team that he was feeling better than when he was admitted to the unit. Peter's progress was discussed at the team meeting and Matilda the authorised doctor decided that Peter could commence limited community treatment.</p> <p>Limited community treatment applies to patients under an involuntary treatment order (inpatient category), forensic order or classified patient order but does not apply to a patient on an involuntary treatment order (community category). That is, the Mental Health Act provides no authority to detain such patients in an authorised mental health service.</p> <p>The maximum period for continuous limited community treatment that can be authorised by Matilda, an authorised doctor, is 7 days. However Matilda or another authorised doctor may extend the period for a further continuous period of 7 days.</p> <p>Initially, Matilda decided that Peter could have unescorted day leave, on and off grounds, of the authorised mental health service and completed the <i>limited community treatment plan</i> form to approve the limited community treatment.</p> <p>This change was noted by Matilda on Peter's <i>treatment plan</i>. A summary of the conversation Matilda had with Peter about limited community treatment was also written in Peter's clinical file.</p> <p>Peter continued to progress to the extent that he's now being considered for weekend leave. So let's take up the scenario at that point.</p>
Matilda	<p>Now Peter, over the past week you've been asking about going home for a weekend, is that right? Well given that you've been responding to treatment it is possible for you to have leave this weekend.</p>
Peter	<p>Mm yeah, well mum said it's okay with her as long as it's okay with you.</p>
Elaine	<p>Yes, I'd be more than happy for Peter to come home for a visit but I just wasn't sure how that might work?</p>
Matilda	<p>Well in order for Peter to have the leave and to come and stay with you the weekend, I have to complete a <i>limited community treatment plan</i>, which will set out the conditions of his leave.</p>
Peter	<p>Well that sounds great, so I can go home Friday night and come back Sunday?</p>
Matilda	<p>That sounds okay under the <i>limited community treatment plan</i> that I have authorised. The conditions are that you do not drink alcohol or drive a car, you are compliant with your medications and return at the time outlined on your leave form. This means that your Mum has to pick you up from the ward, drop you back to the ward and you have to reside at your Mum's</p>



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	place while you are on leave. If you do not comply with the conditions of the limited community treatment plan or there are concerns about your mental health, you may be issued with a <i>requirement to return</i> to authorised mental health service. Does this <i>limited community treatment plan</i> sound okay to you Elaine?
Elaine	That sounds good, I'm happy with that.
Matilda	Peter?
Peter	Yeah Yeah! Fine Fine, so I can have leave but I have to with my Mum and take my medication, not drink alcohol or drive a car.
Matilda	And return at the time agreed upon, yes that's right Peter.
Edward	You'll need to come and see the nursing staff when your mother comes to pick you up. They'll go through your times, conditions, give you your medication and contact details for if you have any questions while you are on leave. They'll also give you contact details Elaine. And remember, you can come back at any time if things don't go so well for you, or you can call and chat with staff. Have either of you got any further questions?
Peter	No, I'm really happy with that.
Elaine	Actually, I feel more comfortable knowing the process now, that's fine.
Richard	<p>Peter's weekend leave went well and he was subsequently discharged and his category changed to involuntary treatment order (<i>community</i>). His <i>treatment plan</i> included fortnightly medical appointments at the authorised mental health service, which he was compliant with for the first 3 months following his discharge. He then started to miss these appointments and his authorised doctor formed the opinion that Peter wasn't complying with his treatment plan, that reasonable steps had been taken to obtain compliance and that there was a significant risk of deterioration in his mental or physical condition because of non-compliance. Attempts to talk to Peter about his non-compliance and the consequences of further non-compliance were unsuccessful. His authorised doctor made a written record of his opinion and the reasons for his opinion in Peter's clinical file.</p> <p>Peter was issued with an <i>order to attend authorised mental health service - involuntary treatment order (community category)</i> which stated that Peter had to return to the authorised mental health service on a particular day and time. He didn't arrive at the required time and a health practitioner was authorised to take him to the health service for treatment. Given Peter's previous non compliance with attending the authorised mental health service, police assistance was requested via a <i>request for police assistance</i> form. Peter was taken to the health service by the health practitioner, with police assistance, The authorised doctor determined that Peter should continue treatment under the community category and after the treatment had been administered, he was returned to his home.</p>