

GUIDE - Admitting a child <12 yrs old under MHA

Purpose: These points are a simple paraphrasing of what the MHA states are Rights, and is not meant to be read as a script. Please refer to the BC Guide to the MHA and C&W Work Standards for MHA Rights, Form 13.

Please note: Applying principles of patient-centered, trauma-informed care is necessary when providing care to all patients (children). Taking into consideration the tone of your voice, the age and developmental stage, and, mental and emotional state of the child is important. Also, who is present (e.g., family members), the environment (e.g., Emergency Dept, Medical Unit, Psychiatry Inpt Unit etc), and the time of day are important.

Guiding questions/statements	Rationale
<p>1. Do you know where you are? (If the child does not know where they are, explain where they are, i.e., at BC Children's Hospital)</p>	<p>This is also a question that helps assess the child's level of mental awareness/functioning.</p>
<p>2. Do you know why you are here? How did they explain it to you?</p> <p>If the patient says 'no', some response examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You are here to work on things with your family so everyone gets along better and being at home feels safe. ▪ Get help to manage really big feelings. ▪ To work on making things better at home/ school. 	<p>These examples are based on common situations young children are struggling with.</p> <p>Each child has a unique story. Tailor your discussion to the context of the child's life.</p>
<p>3. We want you to know that you can ask any questions about why you are here and ask as many as you like; we love questions!</p>	<p>Part of patient-centered care is including the patient in the process by having open, clear communication.</p>
<p>4. We want you to know that you can talk your doctor, any staff/nurse working with you if you have ANY questions or worries about why you are here. You can ask them to come with you to meet with the doctor. If you like, we can "brainstorm" some questions together right now and write them down!</p> <p>Some examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What happens during the day? ▪ How long will I have to come here? ▪ Can I go outside to play? ▪ What about my school work? Friends? 	<p>Knowing what to expect can help in stressful situations. This step is important to start creating a care plan and goals for admission</p>
<p>5. While you're in the hospital, you have what we call 'rights'. This means that you have a say about being here. We can help you with this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You can talk to another doctor about your treatment. ▪ You can talk to a lawyer if you completely disagree with being here and your family and the doctors don't see it that way. ▪ You can talk to a review panel where your opinion will be heard. 	<p>The MHA requires patients to be advised of their RIGHTS as soon as possible after they are admitted involuntarily or voluntarily (at the request of their guardian) under the MHA.</p>