

BE IN THE KNOW

about the review panel process under the Mental Health Act.



What does the panel decide?

They decide whether you, as the patient, still meet the criteria to remain involuntary. They cannot make decisions about your treatment.

Who is on the panel?

- a lawyer or legal member
- a doctor
- a community member

Who else will be there?

A person (e.g. your doctor) to give reasons why your treatment team thinks you should remain involuntary.

Do I need to be at the hearing?

No. You do not need to be at your hearing. But you must arrange to have someone be there to represent you.

Can I bring someone with me?

Yes. A friend or family member can:

- represent you and act on your behalf
- be a witness to provide evidence to support your decertification
- support you and observe what happens

Do I need legal assistance?

No. You do not need legal assistance but we encourage you to have someone help you prepare for your hearing. This could be a friend, family member, Mental Health Law Program (MHLP) advocate or lawyer.



Where and when will the hearing be?

The hearing will be at the hospital you are staying at. The review board will arrange it within 14 or 28 days of receiving your request for a review panel. The date will depend on how long it has been since you were admitted. Your care team will provide you with the details.

Can I see my medical file before the hearing?

Yes. You can see the parts of your file that are relevant to your hearing. You may request them from your care team. We will give you a written summary of the reasons you were certified before the hearing starts. This is called the “case note”.

When will I receive a decision?

Within 48 hours of the hearing.

Can I cancel or postpone my hearing?

Yes. If you want to cancel or postpone tell the Board as soon as possible. Before you decide, discuss this with your treatment team, legal rep or MHLP advocate.

What happens if I don't show up?

If you or your representation don't show up, the hearing will be cancelled. Only one review panel application is allowed per certification period unless you can provide a good reason for not attending.

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Need more information?
Please contact the Mental
Health Review Board:

Website: www.bcmhrb.ca
Telephone: 604-660-2325
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