Mental Health Phase of Care
Education Guide

IHACPA

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) is responsible for the development of the classification systems that provide the healthcare sector with a nationally consistent method of classifying all types of patients, their treatment and associated costs across six service categories including: acute care, non-admitted care, emergency care, subacute and non-acute care, mental health care, and teaching, training and research.

A guide for clinical managers and team members

Use this guide to plan a short education session on the Mental Health Phase of Care (MHPoC) for clinicians.

The IHPA developed the Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC) to:

- improve the clinical meaningfulness of classifications for mental health care
- provide a nationally consistent framework for transparency
- ensure funding based on mental health activity.

The AMHCC aims to provide more accurate and consistent data about services provided to consumers, families and carers across different mental healthcare settings. The AMHCC incorporates:

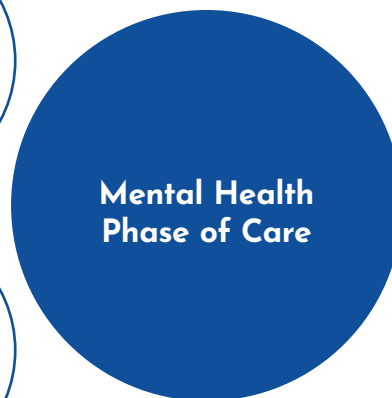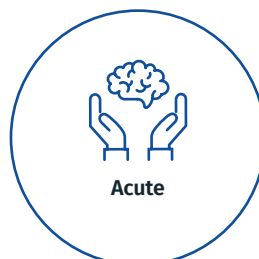| setting	age group	Mental Health Phase of Care (MHPoC)	mental health legal status (MHLS)	Health of the Nation Outcome Scales (HoNOS)	Life Skills Profile (LSP-16)

The MHPoC is a measure of the primary goal of care and therefore, along with other variables is used to calculate future funding, manage resources and improve care services. There are four phases of care: Acute, Functional Gain, Consolidating Gain and Intensive Extended. Assessment Only is now a data item, no longer a MHPoC.

Acute

Consolidating Gain

Mental Health Phase of Care

Functional Gain

Intensive Extended

Note: Assessment Only is no longer a MHPoC, it is now a data item.

'MHPoC is more than codes and administration, it has real clinical utility. It is a core component of what we need to do for our consumers, families, carers, peer workers and their journey with us.'

MHPoC is linked to the problem solving and reflection we do everyday. Incorporating MHPoC into the conversations, review and care planning that we share with consumers, families, carers, colleagues and peer workers will support care, allow for more flexible clinical intervention and service provision, support high-value clinical discussions and support the future provision of resourcing for services.

MHPoC Education Session Plan

Consumers, families, carers and peer workers will have different journeys and experiences through Mental Health Care Services and Settings.

Building a shared understanding of the MHPoC starts with talking to consumers, families, carers, peer workers and clinical colleagues. Clinicians around Australia have told us that effective education on MHPoC starts with team conversations, local application and reflection.

We invite you to start this learning journey with your own team by planning a short session:

Allocate time (around 20 minutes)

Identify an existing meeting where you can use some time to talk about MHPoC, for example a team meeting or regular lunch and learn.

Before the meeting

Ask your team to watch the MHPoC Overview video.

During the meeting

- Ask your team what they already know about MHPoC (2 min discussion).
- Compare responses to the MHPoC Overview Fact Sheet.
- Watch the MHPoC Application video together (10 mins).
- Refer to the MHPoC Journey Maps.
- Explore the discussion questions as a team.

Discussion questions

Think of one consumer (and their family, carer or peer worker) in your setting.

? **How do you think they are feeling about their care goals? What have you observed?**

? **Does the consumer's current treatment match their current MHPoC?**

? **How can we make this an ongoing team discussion?**

Additional resources

- **Mental Health Phase of Care Education Resources** — explore fact sheets, guides, videos, journey maps and webinars.
- **Extension Education Activity** — create your own consumer journey map with your team.