

**Mental Health and Addiction Services
Alcohol and Other Drug
– Court Liaison Services
Tier 3**

November 2024

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1. Status

These service specifications may be amended to meet local agreement needs.

MANDATORY RECOMMENDED

2. Review History

Review History	Date
First Published on NSFL	June 2010
Amended: updated definition to include alcohol and other drugs, removed unapproved Purchase Unit MHFK85C. Minor editing changes for consistency.	February 2011
Amended: clarified reporting requirements	February 2013
Amended: added MHA13S purchase unit code, removed standard provider monitoring reporting tables.	April 2017
Consideration for next Service Specification Review	Within five years
Moved to Health NZ template. Updated links for PUDD and NSFL only. Amended DHB to become District/Region where appropriate. Updated HNZ Sector Ops reporting email address. No other changes to content made.	November 2024

Note: In 2024 a small programme of work moved all Service Specifications to Health New Zealand branded templates. No amendments were made to the body text or content of the Service Specification, so references to DHB, Ministry of Health or other pre-2022 reforms vocabulary will still exist. A larger programme of work to review and revise all Service Specifications is planned for late 2024 to early 2025.

Note: Contact the NSF Team, Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand to discuss proposed amendments to the service specifications and guidance in developing new or updating and revising existing service specifications. NSF@tewhatuora.govt.nz

Nationwide Service Framework Library web site [here](#)

3. Introduction

<p style="text-align: center;">FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH - COURT LIAISON SERVICE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES TIER THREE SERVICE SPECIFICATION MHF85A, MHF85B, MHF85C, MHF85D, MHF95E, MHF95S</p>
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This tier three service specification for Forensic Mental Health Services - Court Liaison Service (the Service) must be used in conjunction with tier one Mental Health and Addiction Services and tier two Forensic Mental Health Services service specifications. In addition, it is linked to a range of tier three Forensic Mental Health Services service specifications.

The service specification defines Forensic Mental Health Services - Court Liaison Service and its objectives in the delivery of the Service.

4. Service Definition

The Service is a consultation and liaison forensic mental health service provided to Courts, Corrections, Police, Community Mental Health Services Crisis Intervention teams, and linked to community agencies on matters of mental health and management of associated problems within the identified agency.

The Service aims to divert from the Criminal Justice system into the health system of offenders with either a mental illness, alcohol and other drugs, and/or intellectual disability where that is appropriate and acceptable to the court. It includes:

- diversion from the criminal justice system into mental health system for defendants, where those people meet the criteria for Mental Health Act compulsory assessment
- treatment or informal assessment and treatment
- facilitation and where appropriate obtain formal forensic reports pursuant to relevant legislation
- liaison and coordination with Community Mental Health crisis intervention teams
- provision of informal written assessments for the Court on whether a Defendant is fit to be placed before it, if they are suffering from a mental illness, and whether they pose a risk to self or others
- acting as a mental health resource and provision of an advisory role for co-ordination of health care (as it relates to mental health issues).

5. Service Objectives

5.1 General

The objectives of this Service are to provide:

- consultation and liaison services to the Ministry of Justice/Department of Corrections, the Court, Police and Community Mental Health Services Crisis Intervention teams

- informal assessments, reports and recommendations to Court Judges, and information and advice to justice and mental health services about the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.

5.2 Māori Health

Refer to the tier one Mental Health and Addiction Services service specification.

6. Service Users

The Service Users will be eligible people that meet the criteria for Forensic Mental Health Services. Young people should be transitioning to adult services up their 18th birthday, and until their 20th birthday if developmentally appropriate.

7. Access

7.1 General

Referrals to forensic court liaison are from different sources. There are requests for the Service to provide assessment and advice to the court (Judges, prosecution, counsel, probation, police) other mental health service providers. Other requests may come from the individual, their family as to whether the defendant has a mental health issue and whether they are receiving treatment).

7.2 Exit Criteria

Exit from forensic court liaison will only be when either all their criminal matters are completed, the defendant has been admitted to a mental health facility for treatment and their criminal matters are completed, or following assessment the defendant is deemed fit to stand trial the forensic court liaison service can no longer 'assist' the court.

8. Service Components

8.1 Processes

Refer to the tier two Forensic Mental Health Services service specification.

8.2 Settings

The Service is provided in the community or court settings.

8.3 Key Inputs

Refer to the tier two Forensic Mental Health Services service specification.

8.4 Pacific Health

Refer to the tier one Mental Health and Addiction Services, service specification.

9. Service Linkages

Linkages include, but are not limited to the following:

Service Provider	Nature of Linkage	Accountabilities
Other providers of services to people in the justice system or a "Special" patient as defined by the Act.	Referral, liaison, networking, collaboration	Work collaboratively with other providers eg, Department of Corrections, Prisons, Courts

10. Purchase Units and Reporting Requirements

10.1 Purchase Units

Purchase Unit (PU) codes are defined in Health New Zealand's Nationwide Service Framework Purchase Unit Data Dictionary. The following codes apply to the Service.

PU Code	PU Description	PU Definition	Unit of Measure
MHF85A	Forensic Mental Health – Court Liaison Service – Senior medical staff	Service to divert offenders from the Criminal Justice system into the health system with either a mental illness, alcohol and drugs, and/or intellectual disability where that is appropriate and acceptable to the court. It provides consultation and liaison to the Ministry of Justice/Department of Corrections, the Court, and Police. This includes informal assessments, reports and recommendations to Court Judges, and information and advice to justice and mental health services about the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992. The service is provided by senior medical staff, a component of a multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHF85B	Forensic Mental Health – Court Liaison Service – Junior medical staff	Service to divert offenders from the Criminal Justice system into the health system with either a mental illness, alcohol and drugs, and/or intellectual disability where that is appropriate and acceptable to the court. It provides consultation and liaison to the Ministry of Justice/Department of Corrections, the Court, and Police. This includes informal assessments, reports and recommendations to Court Judges, and information and advice to justice and mental health services about the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992. The service is provided by junior medical staff, a component of a multidisciplinary team.	FTE

PU Code	PU Description	PU Definition	Unit of Measure
MHF85C	Forensic Mental Health – Court Liaison Service – Nurses & allied health staff	Service to divert offenders from the Criminal Justice system into the health system with either a mental illness, alcohol and drugs, and/or and intellectual disability where that is appropriate and acceptable to the court. It provides consultation and liaison to the Ministry of Justice/Department of Corrections, the Court, and Police. This includes informal assessments, reports and recommendations to Court Judges, and information and advice to justice and mental health services about the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992. The service is provided by nurses and allied health staff, a component of a multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHF85D	Forensic Mental Health – Court Liaison Service – Non-clinical staff	Service to divert offenders from the Criminal Justice system into the health system with either a mental illness, alcohol and drugs, and/or intellectual disability where that is appropriate and acceptable to the court. It provides consultation and liaison to the Ministry of Justice/Department of Corrections, the Court, and Police. This includes informal assessments, reports and recommendations to Court Judges, and information and advice to justice and mental health services about the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992. The service is provided by non-clinical staff, a component of a multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHF85E	Forensic Mental Health – Court Liaison Service – Cultural Support	Service to divert offenders from the Criminal Justice system into the health system with either a mental illness, alcohol and drugs, and/or intellectual disability where that is appropriate and acceptable to the court. It provides consultation and liaison to the Ministry of Justice/Department of Corrections, the Court, and Police. This includes informal assessments, reports and recommendations to Court Judges, and information and advice to justice and mental health services about the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992. The service is provided by cultural support, a component of a multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHF85S	Forensic Mental Health – Court Liaison Service	Service to divert offenders from the Criminal Justice system into the health system with either a mental illness and/or and intellectual disability where that is appropriate and acceptable to the court. It provides consultation and liaison to the Ministry of Justice/Department of Corrections, the Court, and Police. This includes informal assessments, reports and recommendations to Court Judges, and information and advice to justice and mental health services about the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.	Service

Unit of Measure	Unit of Measure Definition
FTE	Full-time equivalent staff member (clinical or non-clinical) involved in direct delivery of services to consumers. Exclude time that is formally devoted to administrative or management functions e.g. half-time coordination of a community team.

Service	Service purchased in a block arrangement uniquely agreed between the parties to the agreement
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10.2 Reporting

The Provider must comply with the requirements of national data collections: PRIMHD.

Additional information to be reported and the frequency of collection are specified by the Funder in the Provider Specific Terms and Conditions as agreed with the Service Provider.

The information required by the Funder will be sent to:

Email: performance_reporting@health.govt.nz

The Performance Monitoring Reporting tables for the Mental Health and Addiction Service Specifications may be used for performance monitoring if specified as agreed with the Funder.