

**Mental health and addiction services**

**Health of Older People  
Acute Inpatient Service  
Tier 3  
September 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
<b>Amended:</b> clarified reporting requirements, completed PU table. Edited for consistency	March 2013
<b>Amended:</b> removed standard provider monitoring reporting tables. Minor editing.	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. No other changes to content made.	September 2024

**Note:** In September 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](mailto:NSF@tewhatuora.govt.nz)

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

### 3. Introduction

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MENTAL HEALTH OF OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES - ACUTE INPATIENT SERVICE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES TIER THREE SERVICE SPECIFICATION MHO98</b></p>
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This tier three service specification for the Mental Health of Older People Services - Acute Inpatient Service, (the Service) must be used in conjunction with tier one Mental Health and Addiction Services and tier two Mental Health of Older People service specifications. In addition, it is linked to a range of tier three Mental Health of Older People service specifications.

This service specification defines the Mental Health of Older People Services - Acute Inpatient Service and its objectives in the delivery of the Service.

### 4. Service Definition

The Service is an acute specialist mental health inpatient service for older people that includes but is not limited to the following:

- delivery of the Service on a general hospital site preferably in a mental health older people's setting
- functional integration with other mental health of older people services, geriatric services, and medical services, in forming part of a continuum of services
- recovery-focused intervention, crisis intervention and prevention of the escalation of the Service User's illness, prevention of disability, and support to maximise quality of life and ageing in place
- management of clients experiencing serious behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia, that are not able to be clinically managed in a community setting
- delivery of the Service in accordance with a comprehensive system of risk/medical management within which least restrictive evidence-based intervention strategies will be practiced.

### 5. Service Objectives

#### 5.1 General

The objective of this Service is to provide a period of close observation and/or intensive investigation, support and/or intervention where this is unable to be safely provided to Service Users within a general ward setting or less acute mental health service.

## 5.2 Māori Health

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

## 6. Service Users

Refer to the tier two Mental Health of Older People Services service specification.

## 7. Access

Where direct referral to the service is not possible, eg. afterhours, referral will be via an alternative mental health team. This is typically via the adult community mental health crisis team.

Length of stay in the Service will be based on assessed clinical need and a treatment plan.

## 8. Service Components

### 8.1 Processes

- A comprehensive range of hospital-based treatment and therapy options will be available including:
- assessment and behavioural and psychological treatments
- pharmacotherapy and bio-medical investigations and interventions
- dedicated low stimulus environment for those whose symptoms and associated behaviours is a risk to themselves or others
- education on mental and physical health and wellness and building resilience to live well.

### 8.2 Settings

The Service is provided in a mental health specific ward/department within a general hospital based setting.

Where a Service User has medical health needs that require management in a general hospital setting; ongoing mental health assessment and treatment will be managed by the Mental Health of Older People Service or the General Hospital Psychiatric Liaison Service.

### 8.3 Facility

Personal care items will be provided when such items are lacking on admission.

## 9. Service Linkages

Linkages include, but are not limited to the following:

Service Provider	Nature of Linkage	Accountabilities
Other providers of Mental Health and Addiction services, general health, gerontology, primary health care services, and aged residential care providers.	Referral, liaison, consultation	Work with other relevant professionals and agencies in the care of the Service User  Support effective transfer of Service Users from one service to another

## 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 code applies to this Service.

PU Code	PU Description	PU Definition	Unit of Measure
MHO98	Mental Health of Older People – Acute Inpatient Service	Service to provide a Specialist assessment and intervention in an acute inpatient setting by a multi-disciplinary team for people experiencing acute mental illness and or serious Behavioural Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD).	Available Bed Day

Unit of Measure	Unit of Measure Definition
Available Bed Day	Total number of inpatient beds that are available to be occupied during the period multiplied by the number of days they are available during that period. To be counted as available the bed must be resourced, and either empty or occupied by a user of this service.

### 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](mailto:performance_reporting@health.govt.nz)

The Performance Monitoring Reporting tables for the Mental Health and Addiction Service Specifications<sup>1</sup> may be used for performance monitoring if specified as agreed with the Funder.

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<sup>1</sup> Performance Monitoring Reporting cluster tables for Mental Health and Addiction Services are published on the Nationwide Service Framework Library, Mental Health and Addiction Service specifications page, Downloads section <https://www.tewhatoru.govt.nz/health-services-and-programmes/nationwide-service-framework-library/about-nationwide-service-specifications/mental-health-and-addiction-service-specifications>