

**Mental Health and Addiction  
Services**

**Specialist Community  
Service**

**Tier 3 Service Specification**

**September 2024**

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## 1. Status

**Approved to be used for mandatory nationwide description of services to be provided.**

**MANDATORY  RECOMMENDED**

Recommended – these are centralized and recommended specifications to be used by Districts for purchasing services, they may be used to enable providers to transition to meeting a Mandatory specification over time. Districts are expected to move to a mandatory specification when renewing or varying an agreement].

## 2. Review History

Review History	Date
First Published on NSFL	June 2010
<b>Amended:</b> clarified reporting requirements, completed PU table. Corrected title, edited for consistency	March 2013
<b>Amended:</b> added MHO99S purchase unit code, removed standard provider monitoring reporting tables. Minor editing.	April 2017
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
Consideration for next Service Specification Review	Within five years

**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

This tier three service specification for the Mental Health of Older People Services Specialist Community Service (the Service) must be used in conjunction with the tier one Mental Health and Addiction 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 Mental Health of Older People Services Specialist Community Service and its objectives in the delivery of services.

### 4. Service Definition

This Service is a multi-disciplinary Specialist mental health community based service to meet the mental health needs of older people. Ideally the service will be co-located and, where practicable, integrated with other services for older people. The Service will include but will not be limited to:

- specific assessments, interventions, (pharmacological and non-pharmacological) treatments and supports that focus on the presenting mental health disorder/s and disorders of ageing. They are also cognisant of the physical, and psycho-social impacts of ageing, and how these impacts affect older people and their family, whānau and relevant carers
- the development of comprehensive care plans in collaboration with the older person Service User, their family, whānau and relevant carers, and linking in with other health and social agencies, including the primary health care provider
- coordination of and access to a range of age appropriate services according to the assessed needs of the older person and their family, whānau and relevant carers
- consultation and liaison, including telephone consultation, to other general health and disability support services and primary health care providers, regarding older people with mental health, addiction, and serious Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD). This consultation and liaison function will enhance this service's referral and discharge processes.

### 5. Service objectives

#### 5.1 General

The objective of this Service is to provide a Specialist community based assessment, treatment and therapy service for older people with mental health disorders, that promotes early diagnosis and the delivery of appropriate interventions, treatments and supports, to alleviate symptoms, maximise wellness and improve the quality of life of the older person, thereby preventing the need for more dependent levels of care and support.

## 5.2 Māori Health

Refer to tier one Mental Health and Addiction service specification and tier two Kaupapa Māori Mental Health and Addiction service specification.

Services for older Māori should use age appropriate Kaumatua and Kuia to assist with the assessment, treatment and discharge planning processes. Refer to the following tier three service specifications for Kaupapa Maori specific services:

- Kaupapa Māori Packages of Care
- Kaupapa Māori Community Based Clinical and Support Services
- Kaupapa Whanau Ora Worker
- Kaumatua Roles
- Kaupapa Māori Consultation, Liaison and Advisory Services.

## 6. Service Users

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

The Service Users will be eligible people usually over the age of 65 years with some flexibility according to assessed needs. They are likely to be experiencing a higher level of complexity of their mental health disorder that now requires Specialist expertise.

## 7. Access

Referrals to access this service may be from any source including from primary practitioners, family, carers, community members, and inpatient services. A triage process of referrals received will occur consistent with local DHB protocols. .

## 8. Service Components

### 8.1 Processes

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

The emphasis for this service is Specialist assessment and interventions to improve the older person's mental health, while supporting their functioning in their own home environment, which may be an aged residential setting.

### 8.2 Settings

The Service is provided in community settings such as a community clinic, primary health care centre, people's homes, and aged residential care facility.

### 8.3 Key Inputs

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

## 8.4 Pacific Health

Refer to tier one Mental Health and Addiction service specification and tier two Pacific Mental Health and Addiction service specification. Services for older Pacific people should use age appropriate Matua to assist with the assessment, treatment and discharge planning. Refer to the following specific Pacific tier three service specifications:

- Community Mental Health and Addiction Services for Pacific People
- Matua – Senior Cultural Advisory Service
- Pacific Cultural Navigator Service
- Specialised Pacific Family Advisory Service.

## 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 and general health General medical, gerontology Primary health care services 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. Exclusions

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

## 11. Quality Requirements

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

## 12. Purchase Units

Purchase Unit Codes are defined in Health New Zealand's Nationwide Service Framework Purchase Unit Data Dictionary. The following codes apply to this Service.

<b>PU Code</b>	<b>PU Description</b>	<b>PU Definition</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>
MHO99A	Mental Health of Older People – Specialist Community Service – Senior medical staff	Multi-disciplinary specialist mental health community based service to provide a recovery focused and quality of life oriented specialist community based assessment, treatment and therapy service for older people with mental health disorders that is accessible, and co-ordinated. The service is provided by senior medical staff, a component of the multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHO99B	Mental Health of Older People – Specialist Community Service – Junior medical staff	Multi-disciplinary specialist mental health community based service to provide a recovery focused and quality of life oriented specialist community based assessment, treatment and therapy service for older people with mental health disorders that is accessible, and co-ordinated. The service is provided by junior medical staff, a component of the multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHO99C	Mental Health of Older People - Specialist Community Service – Nurses & allied health	Multi-disciplinary specialist mental health community based service to provide a recovery focused and quality of life oriented specialist community based assessment, treatment and therapy service for older people with mental health disorders that is accessible, and co-ordinated. The service is provided by nurses and allied health staff, a component of the multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHO99D	Mental Health of Older People – Specialist Community Service – Non-clinical staff	Multi-disciplinary specialist mental health community based service to provide a recovery focused and quality of life oriented specialist community based assessment, treatment and therapy service for older people with mental health disorders that is accessible, and co-ordinated. The service is provided by non-clinical staff, a component of the multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHO99E	Mental Health of Older People – Specialist Community Service – Cultural staff	Multi-disciplinary specialist mental health community based service to provide a recovery focused and quality of life oriented specialist community based assessment, treatment and therapy service for older people with mental health disorders that is accessible, and co-ordinated. The service is provided by cultural staff, a component of the multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHO99F	Mental Health of Older People – Specialist Community Service – Peer support	Multi-disciplinary specialist mental health community based service to provide a recovery focused and quality of life oriented specialist community based assessment, treatment and therapy service for older people with mental health disorders that is accessible, and co-ordinated. The service is provided by peer support staff, a component of the multidisciplinary team.	FTE
MHO99S	Mental Health of Older People – Specialist Community Service	Multi-disciplinary specialist mental health community based service to provide a recovery focused and quality of life oriented specialist community based assessment, treatment and therapy service for older people with mental health disorders that is accessible, and co-ordinated. The service is provided by a multidisciplinary team.	Service



Explanations of the units of measure (UOM) from the purchase unit table.

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

### 13. Reporting Requirements

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.

Unless otherwise specified in the agreement, the following reporting information will be emailed to The Performance Reporting Team at: [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.

### 14. Glossary

Not required

### 15. Appendices

Not required

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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 [www.nsf.health.govt.nz/service-specifications/current-service-specifications/mental-health-and-addiction-services](http://www.nsf.health.govt.nz/service-specifications/current-service-specifications/mental-health-and-addiction-services)