



Mental Health and Addiction Services
Youth Forensic Services
Tier 2

September 2024

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1. Status

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

MANDATORY RECOMMENDED

2. Review History

Review History	Date
First Published on NSFL	June 2010
Amended: Removal of unapproved Purchase Unit MHIYK87C. Minor editing changes for consistency.	February 2011
Amended: clarified reporting requirements	February 2013
Amended: Minor editing for clarification	September 2014
Amended: added purchase unit MHIY87S	April 2017
Amended: updated Child, Youth and Family (CYF) and Department of Corrections to Oranga Tamariki and Ara Poutama Aotearoa respectively.	March 2020
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

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

3. Introduction

This tier two service specification for Youth Forensic Services Mental Health and Addiction (the Service) is the overarching document for the range of tier three Youth Forensic Mental Health and Addiction service specifications. The service specification defines Youth Forensic Services Mental Health and Addiction Services and their objectives in the delivery of the Service.

This service specification must be used in conjunction with the tier one Mental Health and Addiction Services service specification, tier two Infant, Child, Adolescent and Youth Mental Health service specification and one of a range of tier three Youth Forensic Mental Health and Addiction service specifications listed in section 10 below. Local District service specifications may also be included under this service specification as appropriate.

4. 1. Service Definition

Youth forensic services are specialist mental health and addiction services that exist to respond to the needs of young people who are or may be severely affected by mental health and or alcohol and other drug (AOD) problems and have seriously offended, or are alleged to have seriously offended. More specifically youth forensic services have a core responsibility to provide in a developmentally and culturally appropriate way the following:

- the triage, assessment and where appropriate treatment of those serious young offenders who may be severely affected by mental health and/or AOD problems
- consultation and liaison service to adult forensic services for young serious offenders
- service provision to young serious offenders detained for purely indictable offences¹ and or who need secure inpatient treatment. This will include a point of contact, triage and shared care arrangements
- education to other agencies and groups about youth offending pertaining to mental health and alcohol and other drug issues, and about court processes
- a comprehensive system of risk management that promotes and protects the safety of the Service Users, staff and the community, reflecting that some Service Users may present a risk of suicide, self-harm or danger to others.

Operating protocols and service level agreements (SLAs) will support collaboration across youth forensic services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), youth AOD services, Oranga Tamariki, Ara Poutama Aotearoa, the Ministry of Justice and the Courts of New Zealand in order to meet the needs of the youth serious offender.

¹ Serious offences such as murder or manslaughter, referred to the District or High Court

5. Service Objectives

5.1 General

The objective of the Service is to provide a multidisciplinary mental health and addiction service for serious youth offenders who are or may be severely affected by mental health disorders and or alcohol and other drug disorders.

The Service will be inclusive of Service Users' families and whānau, and will enhance wellbeing and preserve the individual Service User's dignity.

The fundamental principle for forensic mental health services is that all people have the right to expect the same level of mental health services, based on need, as others in the general population.

People accessing forensic mental health services may present with complex issues due to socio-economic determinants, trauma, violence, alcohol and other substance misuse, offending and their illness. Services will assist them to meet these challenges establishing a sense of purpose and hope.

5.2 Māori Health

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

Additionally, Districts will identify the local and regional needs of their population and apply specific service models that reflect that, for example a kaupapa Māori service model given that the majority of Service Users in all regions are Māori.

5.3 Service Users

The Service Users are eligible youth from the age of 10 years and up until the 18th birthday; and beyond until the twentieth birthday if developmentally appropriate, who meet the entry criteria.

6. Access

6.1 Entry and Exit Criteria

Entry into and discharge or exit from the Service is determined on the basis of comprehensive assessment of need (and may be court ordered) (ie, being a young offender who is severely affected by a mental health and or addiction problem).

Entry and exit criteria specific to the Service are described in the tier three service specifications.

Districts will develop their own local policies and protocols for entry and exit.

7. Service Components

7.1 Processes

The processes include but are not limited to the following: triage (may be via court liaison) assessment, treatment, intervention, advocacy and support, review process, wellness management, rehabilitation, consultation, liaison and education, transitional planning and discharge.

7.2 Settings

The Service is provided in a variety of settings including hospital (generic mental health or secure forensic settings, when so ordered by the court) and facility based settings including Oranga Tamariki Youth Justice residences and in youth wings/units of adult prisons, and in the community including an assertive outreach service.

The Service settings and facilities will be age appropriate and, where possible, separated from adult services in accordance with United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) recommendations. Residential services for adolescents and youth will meet the Approval Standards for Child and Family Support Services and Community Services and relevant legislation.

Agreements for, and consent to, out-of-home care of adolescents and youth will be consistent with the requirements of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 including any legislation that supersedes, substitutes or amends this Act.

7.3 Key Inputs

The Service is provided by a multi-disciplinary team of people with skills and experience in identifying and responding to the needs of young offenders affected by mental health and addiction disorders, including an appropriate balance of:

- health professionals regulated by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003
- people regulated by a recognised health or social service professional body
- people who support Service Users and are supervised by appropriately trained and regulated health professionals.

The team must have competence in child and adolescent mental health (including lifespan development, engagement with young people and their families and whanau and understanding of youth culture), alcohol and other drug identification and management, and youth forensic triage and assessment, interventions and treatment. They must also have competence in the identification and treatment of co-existing disorders, and the identification and referral of other potentially unmet need such as: intellectual disability, other disabilities and physical health problems.

Requirements of youth drug court and other jurisdictions must be met.

In addition, all staff will have an understanding of the legislative framework in which youth forensic services operate.

Cultural competency is also a requirement of staff working in this Service. Further information in relation to cultural competency and other requisite skills are outlined in relevant professional codes of practice and Let's Get Real Plus².

7.4 Pacific Health

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

8.6. 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 (particularly CAMHS, Youth AOD and Adult Forensic services). Other health, disability and rehabilitation providers eg. sexual health	Referral, liaison, consultation and collaboration	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 In the case of youth high tariff offending, work with Adult Forensic Mental Health services to ensure youth clinical and developmental needs are understood and are met
General health services including primary care	Referral Liaison Collaboration	Work with relevant primary and secondary care services who are (or need to be) involved in the care of the Service User Support effective transfer of Service Users from one service to another
NGO Providers	Referral Liaison Collaboration	Work with NGOs to support the Service User in functioning (eg housing, income support entitlements, and education and employment opportunities.
Providers of Disability Support Services	Referral Liaison Collaboration	Work collaboratively with intellectual and other disability support services and facilitate access to those services when needed.
Education services Group Special Education (GSE) services	Consultation Liaison Collaboration	Work collaboratively with educational services and facilitate access to those services when needed.
Oranga Tamariki Youth Transition Services Police	Consultation Liaison Collaboration	Work collaboratively Provide advice Receive referrals

² A mental health workforce document developed specifically for CAMHS.

Ara Poutama Aotearoa		Develop joint intervention and transition plans with partner agencies
Courts		
Other health services		

9. Exclusions

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

10. Quality Requirements

The Service must comply with the Provider Quality Standards described in the Operational Policy Framework³ or, as applicable, Crown Funding Agreement Variations, contracts or service level agreements.

11. Purchase Units and Reporting Requirements

Purchase Unit (PU) Codes are defined in Health New Zealand's Nationwide Service Framework Purchase Unit Data Dictionary.

Specific reporting requirements apply at tier three service specifications.

12. Tier Three Service Specifications

The tier three service specifications for youth forensic mental health services below have been developed to meet varied service needs.

Title	PU Code
Youth Forensic Inpatient Service	MHIY88
Youth Forensic Specialist Community Service	MHIY87A MHIY87B MHIY87C MHIY87D MHIY87E MHIY87S

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

³ <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-us/new-zealands-health-system/overview-and-statutory-framework/accountability-arrangements>