 <p>BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD HAUORA A TOI</p> <p>CLINICAL PRACTICE MANUAL</p>	<p>ILLEGAL DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND OTHER PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES</p>	<p>Protocol CPM.M5.21</p>
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PURPOSE

It is the Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) Mental Health & Addiction Service's (MH&AS) policy intent that the usage of illegal drugs, alcohol and other psychotropic substances is not permitted on the premises. This is to minimise the risk posed by illegal and non-prescription drug use to patients' and staff safety and to ensure that:

1. The Acute Inpatient Units are free from illegal drugs, alcohol or other Psychotropic substances.
2. Patients wellness is enhanced by preventing the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or other Psychotropic substances while in the Inpatient Unit.
3. Patients receive education on the adverse effects of illegal drugs, alcohol or other Psychotropic substances.
4. Where it is suspected that visitor(s) may be promoting the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or other Psychotropic substances or bringing it to the unit, visits may be supervised or restricted.


OBJECTIVE

- To support the BOPDHB policy of zero tolerance to the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or other psychotropic substances such as synthetic cannabis on the inpatient units and hospital campuses.
- Promote general wellness and stability for MH&AS clients.
- To enhance safety to clients and staff of the inpatient units.
- To educate clients on the boundaries and legal issues associated with illegal drugs, alcohol or other psychotropic substances such as synthetic cannabis.

STANDARDS TO BE MET

1. Any patient may be requested to provide a urine screen at any time.
2. Any patients who are on a 'drug free' treatment program and who exhibit drug seeking behaviour will have a care plan that reflects the need to monitor this behaviour and risk, if necessary, by restricting access to parts of the unit, supervising visits and restricting leave.
3. Any visitors known to be using or bringing illegal drugs, alcohol or other psychotropic substances to the Acute Unit will be asked to leave and a trespass order may be introduced or visits restricted to supervised visits.
4. Any patient found with illegal drugs on their person or in their room will be reported to the Police as per the Notification section.
5. Any patient caught using illegal drugs, alcohol or other psychotropic substances on the Unit will be considered for immediate discharge and in the case of illegal drugs the Police notified.
6. Where there are sufficient grounds to believe that a patient or visitor is in possession of illegal drugs the staff will notify the Police and will request Police co-ordinate a search of the unit. Implementing a search of the unit will involve:
 - 6.1 Keeping the patient under close observation.
 - 6.2 Informing all patients that a search is to be undertaken and requesting their co-operation.

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Protocol Steward: Quality & Patient Safety Coordinator, MH&AS	Authorised by: Medical Director	

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- 6.3 Co-ordinating all patients to a specific area of the unit during the search.
- 6.4 Co-ordinating with Police, a search of all areas vacated for this purpose by patients.
This will include bedroom areas.
- 6.5 The possible use of a drug detection dog.
7. All incidents involving the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or other psychotropic substances by patients whilst an inpatient shall be reported and recorded on the Datix incident reporting system.
8. Notification
 - 8.1 Illegal Drugs found on a patient's person or in their room will be reported to the Police and must be reported within 24 hours of confiscation. For cannabis, the amount must be more than ½ oz / 15 grams. (average weight of one 'tinny' is 0.8 grams)
 - 8.2 Notification to Police should include a written statement as to the details of the find, the alleged offenders name and contact details and the evidence bagged.
9. Disposal Procedure
 - 9.1 At least two (2) staff will be present during any disposal of illegal drugs, alcohol or synthetic cannabis products. Staff will sign and date their actions on the reported and recorded on the Datix incident reporting system and the patient's health record.
 - 9.2 Any supplies of alcohol, synthetic cannabis products or small amounts of cannabis (less than ½ oz /15 grams) and used drug paraphernalia found in the unit / unit grounds will be disposed of immediately:
 - i. Flush alcohol down drain / toilet
 - ii. Paraphernalia / illegal drugs in biohazard container / sharps bin
 - 9.3 Illegal drugs found will be handed to the Police for disposal. Illegal drugs will be bagged, recorded and locked in the drug safe prior to disposal with the exception of a small (less than ½ oz / 15 grams) amount of cannabis which may be disposed of as per 9.2 above.

REFERENCES

- Criminal Justice Act 1985
- Mental Health (Compulsory Treatment and Assessment) Act 1992 and Amendments 1999
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1975

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- [Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.5.3 Trespass](#)

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