

**Forensic in patients assessment of Relative/Carer support needs and support plan**

This assessment aims to find out the level of relative/carer involvement, their knowledge base, education needs and the level of contact and support required. It should be only filled in with collaboration of the relative and member of the nursing team; a copy will be kept in unified health record and original given to the relative. Review date/time will be agreed with the relative (document date and changes at back of document).

<b>Date of Assessment:</b>	<b>Assessor/s:</b>
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<b>If unable to complete this assessment please document date offered, by whom, and explain why below:</b>

<b>Name of Service User:</b>	
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	
<b>Home Address:</b>	
<b>Ward:</b>	
<b>Primary Nurse / Care Co-ordinator:</b>	
<b>Associate Nurse:</b>	
<b>Link Nurses</b>	
<b>RMO:</b>	
<b>Social Worker:</b>	
<b>Occupational Therapist: (OT)</b>	
<b>Probation Officer:</b>	
<b>Psychologist:</b>	
<b>Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN):</b>	
<b>Advocate</b>	

**Please indicate the people contributing to the assessment and indicate if further assessments needed for other members of the family.**

Name of family members	Relationship to User of the service and contact details (optional)

**The Relative/Carer**

**The following are questions, which aim to improve the relations between relatives and professionals and to establish level of involvement, awareness and support required.**

This section aims to establish which relatives visit, how often and the level of support and involvement they give to the user. It also gives the relative the chance to be made aware of visit policies and security protocols.

<b>Your contact with Service User</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How much contact would you normally have with your family member in the community?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who will be visiting the individual on the ward?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How often will they be visiting your family member on the ward?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there anyone who staff should be concerned about visiting the individual on the ward?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you aware of the visiting policy in place?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you been informed of security procedures? And do you have any queries about this?</li> </ul>	

The following section is trying to establish an awareness of why the user is in the forensic service, the aims (general) and alleviate concerns or worries. The medium secure wards can be extremely intimidating and frightening places when you are not aware of the reasons for such security. Speaking to staff member can alleviate this.

<b>Your information about the Ward/ forensic service</b>	
Are you aware of the reason your family member has been admitted to the forensic service?	
Is there anything that remains unclear about the aims of the service?	
Is there anything that concerns you about accessing the ward/ service?	
Are you aware of the security on the ward and the reasons for this?	
Do you have any questions regarding the ward/forensic service?	

Mental illness can affect anyone at anytime, and still to this day is misunderstood. The staff aim to involve the relative/carer as much as possible within the care of individuals and this section aims to find out the person's awareness of mental health, dispose of misconceptions, and help provide education and information. Thus developing a steady level of knowledge and understanding of the illness/problem.

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
What is your understanding of Mental illness/mental health problems?	
Are you aware of the condition/illness your family member suffers from?	
Are there any questions you have regarding this?	
Would like further information on the condition or illness?	
Do you understand the treatment and care needed?	
How much involvement would you like in their care and treatment?	
Are you are of the need for medication and its usage? Would you like further information?	
All of our client group are admitted to the ward under the Mental Health Act 1983. Do you understand the legal situation of your relative? Do you understand its function? (Do you require further information?)	

On the ward we work as part of a multidisciplinary team (MDT), it helps to be aware of who is involved and what individual's roles are. We have Mental Health Nurses, Occupational Therapists, social workers, CPNs, the Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Senior House Officers (SHO), and Psychologists.

<b>Individuals &amp; Roles</b>	
Do you understand the roles of nurses on the ward, especially primary and associate nurse?	
Are you aware of how to contact the user's primary or associate nurse?	
Do you know the name of your relative's responsible medical officer (RMO) (Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist)?	
Would you know how to contact the RMO?	
We have team meetings weekly and then a case review of individuals on a 3 monthly basis. Would you like to be invited to the case review?	
Do you have any questions regarding this section?	

Due to the nature of the forensic service you may witness some extreme behaviour, whilst visiting the ward, staff members are always around and keeping a discreet eye during visits. You may also have concerns about the relative you are visiting.

<b>Risk &amp; safety</b>	
Do you have any areas of concern about your relative, in relation to risk and safety?	
Do you fear for your safety when in contact with your family member?	
Is there anything that staff can put in place to make you feel safer?	
Have you experienced or witnessed violence or aggression before from your relative?	
Do you know what to do or who to contact if you witness violence or aggression on the ward?	
There may be a time when a patient is restraint in your presence, is there anything that worries you or concerns you about this?	
Is there any information you would like to receive on aggression, violence or self-harming behaviour?	
Do you have any further questions regarding this matter?	

The relative/carer is an integral part to the person receiving the care; they will know the person substantially better than the professional and will already have a sustained relationship. Below looks at your relationship with the user.

<b>Relationship</b>	
How would you describe the relationship you have with your relative?	
Is there any information you feel the MDT need to know about you relative?	
Are there any problems within your relations, maybe due to current situation?	
Is there anything else you would like to add?	

Support is integral to the caring process, and as the main caregiver it can get stressful. In the next section it looks at the support you feel you need, what staff can offer and how to access this.

<b>Support</b>	
Do you sometimes feel stressed by the present situation?	
How do you deal with stress?	
Is there support through the family network or are you alone?	
Staff can offer support in the format of regular contact and telephone support. We aim to be there and support carer/relatives as much as possible. Do you feel this would be useful?	
There is also an allocated carer nurse, and carer project group just ask staff members for details. Is there any thing else you feel staff can do?	
If this assessment has raised issues that are in addition to support needs from the ward you can access a carer's assessment through your relatives care co-ordinator just ask staff for details.	

**Is there anything else you would like to ask or add to this assessment?  
(Please include here)**

<b>Review Date (agreed with relative):</b>	<b>Any changes made:</b>

**Following this assessment a Support plan will be drafted with you, and will include areas highlighted in assessment of concern, education, areas and avenues of support. It will also form a record to document contact with relative within.**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Assessors signature:</b>	

**I understand that this assessment is confidential, but that the information will be disclosed if it is deemed that failure to do so would cause or risk harm to self or the public.**