

Freedom of Information Request

Request:

The process by which decisions are made when a person may not be automatically entitled to MHO status and the form which is sent to determine the whole or substantially the whole of time spent in the treatment or care of persons suffering from mental disorders.

1. Please supply details of how this form is evaluated
2. What criteria are used to determine “substantially the whole”
3. Please supply the denominator, the threshold, any other variables or guidance which is used to come to a decision using this tool

Status: Complete**Response Date:** 24/03/2009

For grades of staff, (other than clinical psychologists), not automatically entitled to MHO status, form SM1 is completed by a member's line manager. The form requests details of the duties involving direct (hands-on) care and treatment of mentally disordered patients and those not involving direct (hands-on) care, the average percentage of time spent per week on each duty, the number of mentally disordered patients with the member through out the duty and the number of other staff present. The member's job description is also requested. The job description is also assessed to confirm it is compatible with the duties shown.

For Clinical psychologists form SM215 is completed. The form requests details of the percentage of time spent on the following duties:

Interviewing/testing patients, conducting individual therapy sessions

Participating in group psychotherapy or group behaviour

Participating in case conferences and consultations

Writing reports relating to clinical work

Other duties

Other duties would be classed as indirect patient care.

What criteria are used to determine “substantially the whole”

In general terms a member would be considered as providing substantially the whole of their time with mentally disordered patients if they provide direct hands on care and treatment for around 80% of their time. However this is a guideline only, to apply a hard and fast percentage would be too arbitrary and each case is assessed on an individual basis. This is not the only consideration in the granting of MHO status and further factors considered are shown below.

Please supply the denominator, the threshold, any other variables or guidance which is used to come to a decision using this tool.

There are a number of other factors considered. The degree of responsibility for the care and treatment of patients, the types of duties performed and whether they are likely to cause stress and strain and the environment the member works in. For staff other than clinical psychologists the amount of patients in relation to staff is also considered.