NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, 21 August 2007

Report of the Director of Public Health

New Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 – List Of s22 Approved Medical Practitioners

Recommendation:
Members are asked to:
Approve the following medical practitioners employed by the Mental Health Partnership of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to be authorised for the purpose of Section 22 of the New Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.

1 Introduction
The new Act describes the creation of approved medical practitioners (AMPs) under s22. AMPs are required to make applications for short term detention (STD) under s44 and to review emergency detentions (ED) under s36. Long term detention and compulsory treatment whether in hospital or in the community is possible under a Compulsory treatment order (CTO s64) or a Compulsion order. These require mental health reports from AMPs and AMPs to act as responsible medical officers.

AMPs are approved by a Health Board as having special expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorder. This expertise is recognised by the doctor having either membership or fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (MRCPsych, FRCPsych) or at least 4 years of postgraduate psychiatric experience as well as completion of the national 2 day s22 training course.
A corresponding requirement is imposed by Section 39(b) relating to the reception of patients into the guardianship of the local authority.

2 Medical Practitioners
The Medical Director (Mental Health and Partnerships) for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde has confirmed that the clinicians detailed below have the special expertise necessary in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorder for the purposes of the above named Act and recommends their inclusion on the list of approved medical practitioners. It is requested that these names are confirmed at the next Board Meeting on the 21st August 2007.
3  Retrospective Approval

The Medical Director (Mental Health and Partnerships) for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde had sought approval for the consultants detailed below to be included on the list of approved medical practitioners out with a Board Meeting. This approval was given on 1st August 2007, in order to meet the contingencies of the service and now requires to be ratified by this Board Meeting. A procedure note for this is included in appendix 1 of this paper.

4  Recommendation

That the above mentioned medical practitioners employed by the Mental Health Partnership of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde be authorised for the purpose of Section 22 of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2003.

Author - Dr Linda Watt, Medical Director (Mental Health Partnerships)
Appendix 1

Interim Approval to Approved Medical Practitioners List

Background
There are occasions where it may be necessary to seek Board approval for a medical practitioner to join the list between Board meetings. This can be for a variety of reasons, the main one being that we have new Consultants taking up post and having S22 approval is a pre-requisite for their job. When a Consultant (or a Locum) takes up post, they require approval onto the Greater Glasgow & Clyde approved list, as soon as possible, in order for them to carry out their duties. In some cases this might be weeks before the next Board meeting and therefore they require interim approval.

Procedure
In such cases, the Medical Director (Mental Health and Partnerships) for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde will confirm that the consultants put forward have the special expertise necessary in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorder for the purposes of the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. The names of those requiring approval, will then be sent to the Board Administrator asking them to write (email) Board Members, seeking authority to grant this request under the Mental Health Act.

Retrospective Approval
If authority is granted, then the doctors in question can carry out their duties from the date the authority was given. They will still require to be put forward for this authority to be confirmed at the next Board meeting retrospectively.

It is not imagined that such requests will be frequent in nature.