

From Observation to Intervention

Putting the focus on the patient, rather than their observation status, using a framework of proactive, responsive, personalised care and treatment which puts the patient firmly at its centre.

To consolidate, sustain and support improving observation best practice, the guidance has set out underpinning principles and nine strands to be implemented in practice.

The underpinning principles of the guidance

Understanding the lived experience of patients and their families and engaging their participation, consent and choice about treatment and care.

Creating physical environments which are fit for purpose, therapeutic and as far as possible hazardous free. This should be supported by regular audits which takes account of any recent safety notices.

Developing a model of care based on emerging evidence about trauma-informed care environments and the treatment of complex mental health issues and behaviours such as personality disorder, self-harm and violence.

Creating ward systems that value anticipation, early recognition of deterioration and triggers for harm, as well as personalised early response mechanisms and support for all patients.

Introducing education, training and clinical supervision or action learning for staff to ensure they have the competencies and capabilities to respond to the demands of contemporary, complex mental health care delivery.

Supporting a relational-based approach to care and treatment in order to foster engagement with patients.

Embedding a human rights based approach and engaging with the Rights in Mind pathway to support patients' rights in all mental health settings.

The nine strands of the guidance

Strand 1 Involving carers and families

Strand 2 A continuum-based approach

Strand 3 Early recognition and response

Strand 4 Improved communication

Strand 5 Least restrictive practice

Strand 6 Continuous intervention

Strand 7 A trauma-informed workforce

Strand 8 Personalised care and treatment

Strand 9 Learning and quality improvement