



Who Needs To See This Bulletin?

Please ensure that this bulletin is circulated to ALL STAFF.

Please print out copies of this bulletin for distribution around your establishment. You may also wish to distribute it to Managers at your morning meeting.

Quick-Time Learning Bulletin Clarification of PSI64/2011 (Opening an ACCT)

PSI64/2011 - Management of prisoners at risk of harm to self, to others and from others (Safer Custody) chapter 5 states:

“Any member of staff who receives information, including that from family members or external agencies, or observes behaviour which may indicate a risk of suicide/self-harm must open an ACCT by completing the Concern and Keep Safe form.”

The wording of this mandatory action has led some prisons to open an ACCT on all prisoners received into reception with information pertaining to self harm, whether this is in the past or the present.

This QTLB aims to clarify the mandatory action and allow prisons to manage prisoners deemed to be a risk to themselves, in an appropriate manner.

KEY LEARNING POINTS:

- The mandatory action on page 24 of PSI 64/2011 (Any member of staff who receives information, including that from family members or external agencies, or observes behaviour which may indicate a risk of suicide/self-harm must open an ACCT by completing the Concern and Keep Safe form) is intended to empower all staff to determine **current** risk and thereby, the appropriate action to take, based on the available information before them.
- The mandatory action **is not** intended to prompt staff to open an ACCT on all prisoners based on historical information about risk to self unless a **current risk assessment / warning form, event or incident** has occurred which indicates they are presently at risk of harm to themselves.
- Historical information should be used as part of the overall risk assessment conducted as per local procedures to make an informed decision on the most appropriate course of action. If this information is received at the Reception stage, it is likely that you are already doing this as part of the early days risk assessment processes (health screen, first night assessments etc).

- Historical information may become available when a prisoner has been at the prison for a lengthy period of time (see QTLB 10, Increased Risk) i.e. a GP medical record, a family member or a prison record from a previous sentence. This does not mean that an ACCT document must be opened however, the information should be considered in the current context of the prisoner's behaviour and mental state.

PROMPTS FOR ACTIONS

- Do you pass all documentation to the nurse conducting the reception health screen? Healthcare staff should be provided with the prisoner's core record and all other documentation when a prisoner is received so that they can make a thorough assessment of a prisoner's risk.
- If historical information becomes available regarding known trigger factors, a thorough risk assessment should be conducted e.g. information is received pertaining to the anniversary of the death of a family member and that date is approaching.
- It is important to document what information has been considered during the risk assessment process i.e. if there is historical information about self harm or previous suicide attempts and the prisoner is not assessed as a current risk of harm, document the reasons. It is likely that your first night processes are already doing this.

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