



Chief Psychiatrist Schedule of Delegations

Approval for emergency electroconvulsive therapy on adult involuntary patients and mentally impaired accused - *Mental Health Act 2014* section 199(2)(c)

Process for applying for approval; responsibilities of delegated officers; and instrument of delegation

Version Control

Schedule of Delegations supersedes the schedule issued as per the table below

Version	Date	Currency
1.0	30 December 2015	Superseded
1.1	22 January 2016	Superseded
1.2	11 January 2018	Superseded
1.3	15 February 2018	Superseded
1.4	08 May 2018	Superseded
1.5	07 October 2019	Superseded
1.6	24 February 2021	Superseded
1.7	03 February 2023	Superseded
1.8	09 May 2023	Current



This document lays out the process for applying to the Chief Psychiatrist or their delegate for approval to provide emergency electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) under section 199(2)(c) of the *Mental Health Act 2014* (Act) and details the responsibilities of the delegated officer.

The instrument of delegation, which lists who can exercise the power of the Chief Psychiatrist to approve the ECT under section 199(2)(c) of the Act, is attached.

IMPORTANT

- The delegated powers of the Chief Psychiatrist are vested in the officers specified in the Instrument of Delegation.
- Officers specified in the Instrument of Delegation do not have authority to delegate the powers delegated to them to another person.
- Prescribed Medical Practitioners who hold the title 'Registrar in Psychiatry,' 'Senior Medical Practitioner' or 'Health Service Medical Practitioner' are **NOT** authorised to discharge this delegated power of the Chief Psychiatrist.

1. Section 199(2)(c) *Emergency Electroconvulsive Therapy* *Responsibilities of the delegate*

In exercising the power of the Chief Psychiatrist under s.199(2)(c) of the Act, the delegated officer is to have regard to the following;

- Ensure that the service at which the Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) is to be performed is an approved service under section 544 of the Act.
- Ensure that the involuntary patient or mentally impaired accused is an adult (age 18 or over).
- Ensure that the patient needs to be provided with emergency ECT to save the person's life or because there is an imminent risk of the patient behaving in a way that is likely to result in serious physical injury to the patient or another person.
- Ensure that the medical practitioner who is performing the emergency ECT has regard to the Chief Psychiatrist's Standards and Guidelines for ECT.
- On receipt of a request the Officer exercising the Chief Psychiatrist's power of delegation **must** respond in writing via email and copy the email in to: monitoring@ocp.wa.gov.au
- Approval must be granted prior to the emergency ECT being administered.
- The delegate may approve one, or in exceptional circumstances two treatments until a mental health tribunal can be convened.

Process for seeking Chief Psychiatrist or their delegate's approval for emergency ECT

- A psychiatrist must seek approval for emergency ECT from the Chief Psychiatrist or delegate before any treatment is given.
- A Psychiatrist seeking the Chief Psychiatrist or Delegate's consent to provide emergency ECT **must** via a telephone call or email provide the following details;
 - The involuntary Patient's demographic details
 - The clinical reasons for seeking to treat the person with Emergency ECT, which demonstrates that;
 - It is required to save the patient's life or
 - Because there is an imminent risk of the patient behaving in a way that is likely to result in serious injury to the patient or another person.
 - Confirmation that the patient is an adult.
 - Confirmation that they are seeking a Mental Health Tribunal hearing at the earliest opportunity.



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- On receipt of a request the Officer exercising the Chief Psychiatrist's power of delegation **must** respond in writing via email and copy the email in to: monitoring@ocp.wa.gov.au
 - Please note that the Chief Psychiatrist or delegate is only authorising one, or in exceptional circumstances, two treatments until the Mental Health Tribunal can be convened.
 - Emergency ECT approval CANNOT be given for children. ALL ECT requests for children must be approved by a Mental Health Tribunal prior to any treatment being given.
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- Please note it is legally possible for the same person who is authorising emergency ECT to be the person performing ECT, but as part of a process for oversight and transparency it is appropriate for these to be separate individuals wherever possible

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

MENTAL HEALTH ACT 2014 (s.537)

1. I, Nathan Gibson, Chief Psychiatrist of Western Australia, acting pursuant to **section 537(1)** of the ***Mental Health Act 2014 (the Act)***, hereby delegate to persons who meet the definition of a psychiatrist under section 4 of the Act, and who;
 - (i) hold the following offices; or
 - (ii) may from time to time, act in these offices,all the powers and duties conferred on me under **section 199(2)(c)** of the Act:

Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

- Deputy Chief Psychiatrist – Office of the Chief Psychiatrist.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHS, CAMHS)

- Medical Co-Director - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Child and Adolescent Health Services
- Head of Department – Specialised Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Child and Adolescent Health Services
- Head of Department – Perth Children’s Hospital Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Child and Adolescent Health Service
- Head of Department - Community Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Child and Adolescent Health Service.

East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS)

- Head of Department, East Metropolitan Health Service, Psychiatry Armadale Kalamunda Group
- Medical Co-Director - East Metropolitan Health Service, Mental Health, Royal Perth Bentley Group
- Clinical Lead – East Metropolitan Health Service, Royal Perth Hospital, Psychiatry.

North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS)

- Director of Clinical Services - North Metropolitan Health Service, Mental Health
- Medical Co-Director - North Metropolitan Health Service, Acute Mental Health
- Medical Co-Director - North Metropolitan Health Service , Mental Health Specialties
- Medical Co-Director - North Metropolitan Health Service, Community Mental Health
- Medical Co-Director and Director of Psychiatry– Women’s Health, Genetics and Mental Health, King Edward Memorial Hospital.

South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS)

- Medical Co-Director –South Metropolitan Health Service, Rockingham Peel Group Mental Health Services
- Head of Service – South Metropolitan Health Service, Mental Health, Fiona Stanley Hospital
- Head of Service – South Metropolitan Health Service, Mental Health, Fremantle Hospital.

Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS)

- Clinical Director - WACHS Great Southern Mental Health Service
- Clinical Director - WACHS Goldfields Mental Health Service
- Clinical Director – WACHS Kimberly Mental Health and Drug Service
- Clinical Director – WACHS Pilbara Mental Health and Drug Service
- Clinical Director – WACHS Midwest Mental Health
- Clinical Director – WACHS South West Mental Health
- Clinical Director – WACHS Wheatbelt Mental Health
- Clinical Lead – WACHS Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service
- Director of Psychiatry – WACHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- Director of Psychiatry –WACHS Youth Mental Health Service
- Directory of Psychiatry – WACHS Adult/Older Adult Mental Health Service.

Public Private Partnership

- Head of Department - Joondalup Health Campus – Mental Health Unit
- Head of Clinical Service - St John of God Midland Public Hospital, Mental Health Service.

Private

- Clinical Director – Specialist ECT Program, Perth Clinic
 - Clinical Director – Specialist ECT Program, Hollywood Private Hospital.
 - Clinical Director – Specialist ECT Program, Marian Centre.
2. This instrument of delegation shall remain in force until otherwise amended or revoked.
 3. All prior delegations issued in relation to the delegations covered by this instrument are revoked.

DATED: 9 May 2023

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Gibson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Nathan Gibson
CHIEF PSYCHIATRIST