



Chief Psychiatrist's Standard for the Authorisation of Hospitals under the *Mental Health Act 2014*

Frequently Asked Questions – Authorised Hospitals – Existing (legacy) services

Will we retain authorisation?

Yes – existing services will retain their authorisation.

How does the new Standard impact us and what is required of us?

- The Advisory and Authorisation Master Checklist primarily support services seeking authorisation and are provided for reference where not directly applicable.
- The Standard applies to existing (legacy) services, who are required to undertake a gap analysis within 6 months (a template for the gap analysis will be provided by the OCP).
- Services are expected to identify, prioritise and address gaps, focusing on higher-risk areas impacting safety, clinical care and the therapeutic environment.

What if we can't meet the requirements?

- The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist will work collaboratively with services to support practical pathways to alignment, recognising infrastructure constraints and the need to operate within agreed funding parameters.
- Services are expected to:
 - Identify gaps and associated risks
 - Prioritise high-risk issues impacting safety, clinical care and the therapeutic environment
 - Outline actions and timeframes to demonstrate progress toward alignment with the new Standard, including short, medium and longer-term actions (e.g. future funding submissions), where appropriate.



Who completes the gap analysis?

- The authorised hospital is responsible for completing the gap analysis.
- The OCP Authorisation Team will proactively contact services to provide guidance and issue the template.
- Services must use the provided template and submit the completed gap analysis to authorisations@ocp.wa.gov.au by 31 December 2026.

How will progress be monitored?

- Progress will be monitored through ongoing engagement with the OCP Authorisation Team.
- Where high-risk gaps are identified, additional follow-up, support or reporting may be required.
- Where high-risk issues remain unaddressed, the Chief Psychiatrist may formally advise the HSP of required corrective actions and, where necessary, escalate matters to the Department of Health.

What do we need to do next?

- Review the new Standard to understand how requirements apply to your service.
- Complete a gap analysis within 6 months (template will be provided by the OCP), focusing on risks to safety, clinical care and the therapeutic environment.
- Engage with the OCP Authorisation Team and submit the completed gap analysis, noting the team will proactively contact services to support the transition.