

Community Treatment Order Flowchart

Mental Health Act (MHA) of Alberta



Refer to the Mental Health Act and its regulations for more comprehensive information. Reliance on this document is solely at the user's risk; AHS is not responsible for errors or omissions and will not be responsible or liable for any claims arising based on the use (or misuse) of information contained herein. This material may be reproduced or copied in full for educational and program development purposes or not-for-profit or non-commercial activities without permission. © 2023 Alberta Health Services



Definition of Mental Disorder (MHA vs.(1)(g))

A substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, orientation, or memory that grossly impairs: judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality or ability to meet the ordinary demands of life, but does not include a disorder in which the resulting impairment is persistent and is caused solely by an acquired or congenital irreversible brain injury.

A. Criteria for CTO (MHA s.9.1(1))

Two QHPs - one MUST be a psychiatrist - may, issue a CTO with respect to a person if they meet a) through f):

- a. person is suffering from a mental disorder, and
- b. one or more of the following apply:
 - within the immediate preceding 3-year period the person has on two or more occasions, or for a total of at least 30 days,
 - A. been a formal patient in a facility or
 - B. been in an approved hospital or been lawfully detained in a custodial institution where there is evidence satisfactory to the two QHP that, while there, the person would have met the criteria (for a formal patient) at that time or those times, or
 - C. both A. and B. above
 - ii. the person has within the immediately preceding 3-year period been subject to a CTO
 - iii. in the opinion of the two QHPs, the person has, while living in the community, exhibited a pattern of recurrent or repetitive behavior that indicates that the person is likely to cause harm to others or to suffer negative effects, including substantial mental or physical deterioration or serious physical impairment, as a result of or related to the mental disorder, if the person does not receive continuing treatment or care while living in the community, or
 - iv. a review panel has ordered a board to issue the CTO under MHA s.41,
- c. Two QHPs, after separate examinations of the person within the immediately preceding 72 hours, are both of the opinion that the person is within a reasonable time, likely to cause harm to others or to suffer negative effects, including substantial mental or physical deterioration or serious physical impairment, as a result of or related to the mental disorder, if the person does not receive continuing treatment or care while living in the community, and
- treatment or care the person requires exists in the community, is available to the person, and will be provided to the person, and
- e. in the opinion of each QHP, the person is able to comply with the treatment or care requirements set out in the CTO, **and**
- f. either,
 - i. consent to the issuing of the CTO has been obtained,
 - A. from the person, if they are competent, or
 - B. in accordance with section 28(1), if they are not competent
 - or
 - ii. consent to the issuing of the CTO has NOT been obtained, but in the opinion of the issuing QHPs,
 - A. person has, while living in the community, exhibited a history of not obtaining or continuing with treatment or care that is necessary to prevent the likelihood of negative effects to the person, including substantial mental or physical deterioration or serious physical impairment, as a result of or related to the mental disorder, or of harm to others, and
 - B. a CTO is reasonable and would be less restrictive than retaining the person as a formal patient

Community Treatment Order Key Points

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- F. Amendment Considerations (MHA s. 9.4)
 - A CTO can be amended by a QHP.
 - An amendment must be on Form 21 with copy of most recent CTO (Form 19 or 20) attached.
 - If medication is stated by class (e.g., "antidepressant" in Part III of a Form 19 or 20), adjustments within that class of medication do not require an amendment.

G. Cancellation/Expiry (MHA s.9.2, s.9.5; CTO Reg. 8(2))

- A CTO can only be cancelled by a psychiatrist, review panel decision, or Court of King's Bench.
- If the supervising QHP is not a psychiatrist, consultation with a psychiatrist when CTO criteria no longer met is required to complete Form 22.
- Supervising QHP to issue notice of the expiry of a CTO on Form 22.
- All individuals notified of the issuance, amendment, or renewal of a CTO (see E), as well as the physician or nurse practitioner who treats the person in their ordinary day-to-day health care needs (if known) requires notification of expiry or cancellation, along with any recommendations for treatment.

H. Review Panel (MHA s.34-43; CTO Reg. 9(1))

- The person subject to a CTO or anyone on their behalf, may apply for a review panel hearing via Form 12 to cancel a CTO.
- Review panel is composed of a chair or vice-chair (must be lawyers), a psychiatrist & a member of the public.
- Review panel to be held within 21 days of the chair receiving the application, and their decision to be issued within 48 hours of the hearing.
- The person subject to a CTO has the right to legal representation at all review panel hearings.
- Issuing QHP to send copy of renewal forms to review panel for deemed applications.
- Any decision or order of the review panel may be appealed to the Court of King's Bench.

I. Non-CTO Clinical Considerations

When a person does not meet the criteria for a CTO, the CTO has expired or has been cancelled, care providers should consider:

- > need for hospital admission either as a formal patient (see MHA s.2 for admission criteria) or as a voluntary patient.
- > any treatment recommendations the person may be willing to accept voluntarily.

Additional Information

• Informed consent to treatment is a separate process from consent to CTO.

- Treatment providers are responsible to obtain and appropriately document informed consent for the treatment they provide.
- In addition to the prescribed MHA forms referenced, all providers are expected to follow professional standards and organizational guidelines for documentation.

For information on the MHA, visit: <u>ahs.ca/info/mha.aspx</u> or for MHA Forms, visit: <u>ahs.ca/info/Page1256.aspx</u> For enquiries about this resource, contact: <u>mhaandcto.enquiries@ahs.ca</u>

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B. Issuing/Renewing a CTO (MHA s.9.1, s. 9.2, s. 9.3; CTO Reg. s. 1-2)

any time before its expiry.

consequences of not doing so.

decisions may be made by the:

directive)

the form (Form 19 or 20)

b.

C.

÷

C. Mental Competency (MHA s.26, s. 28)

• Renewal criteria are the same as issuance criteria

examination and completion of all parts of the

prescribed form is 7 days instead of 72 hours.

who last issued, renewed, or amended a CTO. • Examinations for the purposes of issuance or renewal

may be conducted remotely using any means

considered appropriate by the examining QHP,

including, but not limited to, video conference.

A CTO is valid for 6 months and can be renewed

Competency means that a person is able to understand

the subject matter relating to, and the consequences of,

When a physician determines a person subject to a CTO

agent of the person (under an enacted personal

making treatment decisions or giving consent and the

is incompetent to make treatment decisions, these

nearest relative as defined in section 1(i), or

treatment decisions in the best interest of the person.

D. Form Requirements (MHA s.9.1(2) CTO Reg. s.4)

Must be written on the correct and most current version of

Identify and be signed by the issuing QHP, a second

examining QHP, the supervising QHP (if different from

Contain the dates and location (city/town & facility) of

the examinations, the rationale/ facts from which the

examining QHPs formed their opinions and the

if the treatment and care plan requires services

a person authorized to approve the service must

sign the CTO (e.g., Program Manager).

(MHA s.14(1.1), s. 14(2), s. 14(4) CTO Reg. s.7, s.8)

Person subject to CTO
SDM under MHA s. 28 (if any) (see C above)

ALL treatment providers named in the CTO

Copies of issued, amended, or renewed CTO

review panel hearing to cancel a CTO

only for person subject to CTO or their SDM

What to include in the notification:

interpreter if required *:

or renewal of CTO

· Nearest relative (unless patient objects on reasonable

· One person designated by person subject to CTO (if

Written statement (of Forms 19, 20, or 21) with the

reason & authority for issuance, amendment,

function & contact information of the review panels

right of the person subject to the CTO to apply for a

following requirements in simple language, using an

provided by the regional health authority (i.e., AHS),

or quardian is in place. The SDM shall make the

issuing QHP) and all treatment providers

treatment and care to be provided

E. Notification of CTO Issuance.

Amendment and Renewal

Who to notify:

Issuing QHP

grounds)

anv)

Supervising QHP

The nearest relative option is not utilized when an agent

guardian of the person on a CTO

Public Guardian (last resort)

Formal patient admission or renewal certificates are

automatically cancelled upon the issuance of a CTO.

(see A) except the allowable time between the first

"Issuing qualified health professional" means the QHP