Mental Health Student Clinical Placement

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) Clinical Placement Handbook. The AWH handbook can be located at the AWH website [www.awh.org.au](http://www.awh.org.au), then proceed as follows:

Select the:

- Education and Research tab.
- Education
- Student Clinical Placement
- Click Survey Monkey Link to commence orientation package.

All organisational policies and procedures relating to student placement outlined therein, including Code of Conduct, also apply to students undertaking Mental Health Placements across campus’. Please note the Emergency contact numbers and pager details referred to in the generic AWH student clinical placement handbook are not relevant to Mental Health placement.

**Key Principles for Student Placement:**

All professional entry clinical placements must be arranged in advance via the Victorian Department of Human Service’s clinical placement management system VicPlace. Key principles of clinical placement planning include: inclusion, transparency and openness, consistent approach, collaboration and collegiality, facilitation, and respect for existing relationships.

Clinical Placement planning and management at AWH is informed by the Best Practice Clinical Learning Environment (BPCLE) framework with the key aim being to provide quality of clinical training. The underpinning principles of the BPCLE are:

- Patient care is integral to quality clinical education.
- Learning in clinical environments is essential to training.
- Professional standards set the minimum requirements.
- Different models of clinical education are acceptable.

**Overview of North East Border Mental Health Services:**

North East Border Mental Health Services (NEBMHS) is a directorate of Albury Wodonga Health. It consists of a number of cross-border campus’.

Site maps for these placement locations are attached in Appendix 1 of this document. Those sites where mental health student placement occurs are as follows:

- Wangaratta ....
  - Community Adult Mental Health (Dixon Street, Wangaratta)
  - Older Person’s Community Mental Health (82a Murdoch Road Wangaratta) and
  - Kerferd Inpatient Unit (Cnr Dixon and Docker Streets Wangaratta)
- Beechworth...
  - Willows Rehabilitation and Recovery Unit (Gilchrist Ave/Mayday Court, Beechworth.)
  - Blackwood Psychogeriatric Inpatient Unit (Beechworth Health Service Sydney Road, Beechworth) Note: Blackwood does not provide student placement in Mental Health.

- Wodonga...
  - Community Adult Mental Health (4 Watson Street, Wodonga...behind Aldi)
  - Benambra Residential Rehabilitation Service. **PHONE 02 6056 5803**

See link to location map below:

http://www.awcommunityguide.com.au/?view=676

- Albury...
  - Community Adult Mental Health (475 Townsend Street, Albury.)

See link to location map below (**PHONE 02 6058 1750**)

http://www.awcommunityguide.com.au/?view=42

- Nolan House Inpatient Unit.. (Albury base Hospital Borella Road, Albury)

**What students do we take:**

AWH is keen to take students from a range of undergraduate professional disciplines including Nursing, Allied Health(Occupational Therapy and Social Work) and Medicine. Clinical Placements are arranged through VicPlace, (the state-wide data base), and this process is completed between the University and Albury Wodonga Health. Not all NEBMH sites take all disciplines.

The models of clinical mentorship similarly vary across disciplines and sites. Generally speaking, clinical supervision for Nursing Students uses a preceptorship model, where the student will be buddied with an expert clinician, either for the whole placement or on a shift by shift basis.

Allied Health students have a more 1:1 clinical supervision model, where they are usually allocated the same clinical supervisor for the duration of their placement at a particular site.

Arrangements regarding Medical Students are determined directly between the Education Provider and the Medical staff involved.

The Clinical Educator is available should you require assistance or support during placement, and can be contacted via your preceptor/ supervisor. The clinical educator will generally meet you at orientation at a designated venue, of which you will be notified prior to placement.

Feedback will be provided directly by your supervisor/preceptor on a shift by shift, and as needs basis.

You will be asked to complete an evaluation at the end of your placement and your feedback is always welcomed, and on the basis of it, changes are often made to placement for future students.
The Mental Health Environment:

Clinicians working within Mental Health practise within a Recovery Framework. This framework emphasises client led recovery and focuses on the client’s strengths in their recovery journey. Client choice is a cornerstone of Recovery, and clinicians are partners in, not directors of that client’s recovery journey. For more information on AWH Mental Health Services, useful clinical suggestions regarding working with our client group, working within the Mental Health Field, and on Recovery you may wish to access the Recovery Hub of AWH by pasting the following link into your browser:


and then scroll down to NEBMHS Information Booklet available there. This is most worthwhile!

The Mental Health Environment is multidisciplinary, where all staff contribute collegiately to, and in tandem with, the client and their family, to the care plan. So, on your placement you will experience more of a social model of health approach, where the clinicians and support people are partners in care, not the directors of that care. So, you may need to be prepared for a substantially different type of placement from that which you would experience in an Acute Hospital Setting.

The skills that we are specifically expecting that you will increase during placement will be your:

- Communication skills in relation to engaging therapeutically and creating rapport with clients;
- Clinical assessment skills particularly related to Mental Status Assessment, and how that impacts upon physical health assessment and vice versa;
- Approach to our clients across the clinical spectrum being mindful of always ensuring they are treated with respect and dignity;
- Approach to our clients as they enter your clinical setting, whether it be in the Acute Hospital or in the Mental Health Service. This first contact/approach is pivotal to establishing rapport with the client and impacts upon how the client views the service, and their ability to feel comfortable accessing health services in the future.
- Understanding of the many challenges facing the client with a mental health issue, physically, socially, emotionally and environmentally (arising from within the health sector and without).

What does a “typical” Day on a Mental Health Placement look like...A snapshot...

If your placement is to occur on one of the inpatient Units, Nursing Students will start the day at 0700 and conclude at 1530hours. These shift lengths may vary on the acute inpatient Mental Health Units, and will be organised in consultation with you, as necessary, once placement has commenced. At the beginning of your shift you will attend handover and then be allocated to a clinical team with your preceptor. The emphasis is on your clinical learning during placement, so to expedite this, it is recommended that you participate in as many client related activities and clinical functions as possible.

Allied Health Students will be directed by their supervisor as to shift times and duties.

Students are often anxious regarding their first day of placement and we know that this is often heightened if your first day is on an inpatient Unit. Part of the role of the preceptor is to ensure the student operates
within their scope of practice at all times, thus it is the responsibility of the student to speak up if their scope of practice is being extended beyond their academic preparation eg. giving IMI medications if you have not received formal education on this. For this reason, there are clinical areas that students are not to be involved with, such as clients in seclusion. Similarly, there is no requirement for the student to be involved with clients in High Dependency. Therefore, it is also the responsibility of the student not to place themselves in a vulnerable situation.

If your placement is to be with one of the Community Teams, you will be buddied with a clinician for the day and will work alongside them. Generally speaking, if you are invited in to client consults, your role is to sit quietly and to ask questions of your preceptor/supervisor once the session has concluded, unless specifically encouraged/invited to do otherwise. During the assessment, your role is to observe and conduct a mental state examination on each client and to consult with your preceptor re this, after the consult has concluded.

Students often see clinical situations with “fresh eyes” so don’t hesitate to contribute, if you feel you have something to say, but be mindful of how and when you do this. Consult with your preceptor/supervisor re this. Clinical reviews occur both in the Community Teams and on the inpatient Units. This is generally a time for open discussion regarding the client, either in their presence, or not. Again ask your preceptor for direction re how to contribute to this and when.

Just remember, be tactful, respectful and professional at all times. Access your preceptor/supervisor for all things clinical in the first instance, and report clinical issues/concerns to them expediently and always operate within your scope of Practice.

Clothing:

Inpatient Units: Staff generally wear uniform, and students are welcome to wear uniform or neat clean professional casual. Uniform on the first day is recommended, and then you can ask re local practices thereafter. Footwear should always be sturdy, no ballet’s, sandals or thongs.

Community Settings: Neat, clean, professional casual. Clothing is not to be revealing or too tight. Plunging necklines and leggings (other than with long tops), ripped jeans, short skirts etc are not appropriate. Again, no sandals or thongs.

If your attire is deemed to be unsuitable, you will be asked to go home and change. There will be no discussion on this matter.

Orientation:

Orientation is in place, and this may vary according to the site location and the number of students involved. Your Education Provider will be notified of this prior and they will pass this on to you with your roster.

What do you need to provide:

4 weeks prior to placement scanned via email to the AWH clinical supervisor responsible for your placement.
Evidence of Immunisations and serology, as outlined in the Appendix 2

What do you need to bring with you to placement orientation:

- You also need to print off this declaration as above(Appendix 2) sign it and bring it with you on the first day
- Current (within the last 12 months) Police Check
- Current working with Children Check
- Completed paperwork as requested in the Student Clinical Placement Brochure(AWH)

If you do not bring these, or they are not in order, you will be so advised and placement will not commence until the paperwork is in order.

Leave on Placement:

If you are unable to attend placement on a particular day (due to being unwell, or because of some other matter of an urgent/important nature), please advise your preceptor/supervisor or unit asap. Generally speaking, we ask that you contact your placement venue, and leave a phone message, as soon as you know you will be unable to attend placement.

Telephone numbers are provided with the location addresses below. We are always concerned for students’ safety and need to know if you haven’t arrived for placement on a particular day, that you are OK.

We will endeavour to make up the time you have missed on placement, but this may be sometime after your placement at a mutually convenient time. Having said that, we will always try to make it up as consecutively with placement as possible.
Appendix 1 Site Maps

**Nolan House – Albury Campus (PHONE 02 6058 4450)**

Nolan house is located at:

The Albury Base Hospital

Borella Road, Albury NSW 2640 (Turn right from Borella Road, up Keene Street)

Indicated on the below map as – “ Psychiatric Visitors Outpatients and Admission Entrance”.

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The Willows - Beechworth (PHONE 03 57 28 33 11)

The Willows is located at:

Present to Number 10 Mayday Court, Beechworth VIC 3747. (2nd House from the corner of Gilchrist Ave / MayDay Court)
Community Mental Health Service - Wodonga Campus (PHONE 02 6051 7950)
The Community Mental Health Service - Wodonga Campus is located at:
4 Watson Street Wodonga, VIC 3690 (Behind Aldi)

Community Mental Health Service – Wangaratta Campus (PHONE 03 57 225 347)
The Community Mental Health Service – Wangaratta Campus is located at
Dixon street Wangaratta VIC 3677 (Behind Northeast Health Wangaratta)
Older Persons Mental Health - Wangaratta Campus (PHONE 03 57 221 784)

Older Persons Mental Health is located at:

82A Murdoch Road Wangaratta VIC 3677

Kerferd Unit – Wangaratta Campus (PHONE 03 57 225 031)

The Kerferd Unit is located on the Northeast Health Wangaratta Campus and can be located at:

53 Docker street Wangaratta, VIC 3677

We trust you enjoy your placement and have an excellent learning experience
**Appendix 2**  FORM 2 – Tuberculosis (TB) Assessment Tool

- A New Employee/Student will require TST screening if he/she was born in a country with a high incidence of TB, or has resided for a cumulative time of 3 months or longer in a country with a high incidence of TB, as listed at: [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/Infectious/a-z.asp#T](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/Infectious/a-z.asp#T).
- The AWH will assess this form and decide whether clinical review/testing for TB is required. Indicate if you would prefer to provide this information in private consultation with a clinician.
- **New employees** will not be permitted to commence duties if they have not submitted this *Form and Form 1: New Employee Declaration* to AWH Human Resources Department. Failure to complete outstanding TB requirements within the appropriate timeframe(s) may affect the new employee’s employment status.
- **Students** will not be permitted to attend clinical placements if they have not submitted this *Form and the Form 3: Student Declaration* to their educational institution’s clinical placement coordinator as soon as possible after enrolment. Failure to complete outstanding TB requirements within the appropriate timeframe(s) will result in suspension from further clinical placements. The educational institution will forward the original or a copy of these forms to the health service for assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical History</th>
<th>Assessment of risk of TB infection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cough for longer than 2 weeks</td>
<td>Were you born outside Australia?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Please provide information below if you have any of the following symptoms:</strong></td>
<td>Yes ☐ No ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemoptysis (coughing blood)</td>
<td>If yes, where were you born?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fevers / Chills / Temperatures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night Sweats</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatigue / Weakness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anorexia (loss of appetite)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexplained Weight Loss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Have you ever had: Contact with a person known to have TB?                     | Have you ever had: TB Screening                                                                   |
| If yes, provide details below                                                 | Yes ☐ No ☐                                                                                         |

If you answered YES to any of the questions above, please provide details (attach extra pages if required).

**I declare that the information I have provided is correct**

Name

Phone or Email

Student ID (or date of birth)

Educational institution (student)

Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________
## FORM 3 STUDENT DECLARATION

**All students** must have completed each part of this *Form 3: Student Declaration Form* and the *Form 2: Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Assessment Tool* and returned these forms to their educational institution’s clinical placement coordinator within the specified time frame prior to placement. (Parent/guardian to sign if student is under 18 years of age.)

Students will not be permitted to attend clinical placements at Albury Wodonga Health if they have not submitted *Form 3: Student Declaration Form* and *Form 2: Tuberculosis Assessment Tool*.

Students who fail to complete outstanding hepatitis B or TB requirements within the appropriate timeframe(s) will not be permitted to attend clinical placement at Albury Wodonga Health.

The **educational institution** will forward the original or a copy of these forms to the health service for assessment.

Albury Wodonga Health will assess these forms along with evidence of protection against the infectious diseases specified in the AWH Assessment Screening and Vaccination Policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 1</th>
<th>☐ I have read and understand the assessment, screening and vaccination requirements as described above.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Part 2 | ☐ I undertake to participate in the assessment, screening and vaccination process and I am not aware of any personal circumstances that would prevent me from completing these requirements.  
☐ I undertake to participate in the assessment, screening and vaccination process, however I am aware of medical contraindications that may prevent me from fully completing these requirements and am able to provide documentation of these medical contraindications. I request consideration of my circumstances. |
| Part 3 | I have evidence of protection for: ☐ pertussis ☐ diphtheria ☐ tetanus  
☐ varicella ☐ measles ☐ mumps ☐ rubella |
| Part 4 | ☐ I have evidence of protection for hepatitis B.  
☐ I have received at least the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine (documentation provided) and undertake to complete the hepatitis B vaccine course (as recommended in the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, current edition) and provide a post-vaccination serology result within six months of commencement of enrolment. |
| Part 5 | ☐ I have been informed of, and understand, the risks of infection, the consequences of infection and management in the event of exposure (refer *Information Sheet 3: Specified Infectious Diseases: Risks, consequences of exposure and protective measures*) and agree to comply with the protective measures required by the health service. |

I declare that the information I have provided is correct

Name ____________________________________________

Phone or Email ______________________________________

Date of Birth or Student ID __________________________

Educational institution ___________________________________

Signature ___________________________________________ Date __________________________