

Maternal Mental Health Liaison

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• Directorate(s)	Mental Health & Addictions
• Department(s)	Maternal Mental Health
• Used for which patients?	n/a
• Used by which staff?	All National Women’s Health staff
• Excluded	
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1. Scope

All individuals working within maternal mental health, all referring agencies.

2. Policy statements

The Service will assess all individuals referred to the service as per Entry to Service Criteria- Maternal Mental Health. An exception to this for the Liaison Maternal Mental health service is people who live out of area, they will be seen and the appropriate DHB will be charged through Inter-District Funding.

We are unable to provide Emergency Crisis Service. Where there is deemed to be an emergency requiring mental health input a referral should be made to Psychiatric Liaison (and Maternal Mental should be alerted as follow-up may be required).

3. Process

Follow the steps below:

Step	Action
1.	A referral is received by fax, telephone, in writing from a service to which we liaise.
2.	Liaison staff check that entry criteria are met and no exclusion criteria apply.
3.	Liaison staff will contact referrer and establish level of urgency and appropriate assessment time.
4.	When a referral is deemed inappropriate for Liaison service, this will be communicated back to the referring team and the reasons for non-acceptance of the referral given. A more suitable course of action or agency will be indicated to the referrer.
5.	If there is a delay before the individual can be assessed due to resource constraints; this will be communicated to the referrer.

4. Exclusion criteria

Description

- The referral is not from a service to which we liaise
- The referral is not for a defined mental health related issue
- The referral would be more suitable for another service, such as:
 - a Health Psychologist within ADHB,
 - The Psychiatric Liaison team, (Starship/Adult),
 - The Auckland Regional Pain Service,

- The Community Alcohol and Drug Service,
- the local Community Mental Health Centre.

5. Disclaimer

No guideline can cover all variations required for specific circumstances. It is the responsibility of the health care practitioners using this Auckland DHB guideline to adapt it for safe use within their own institution, recognise the need for specialist help, and call for it without delay, when an individual patient falls outside of the boundaries of this guideline.

6. Corrections and amendments

The next scheduled review of this document is as per the document classification table (page 1). However, if the reader notices any errors or believes that the document should be reviewed **before** the scheduled date, they should contact the owner or [Document Control](#) without delay.