

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of the management of patients with acute mental illness in an ambulance context		
Level	5	Credits	4

Purpose	<p>This unit standard is intended for people who are working in an ambulance context, and who are responsible for developing management plans for patients, making appropriate decisions, and who need to be able to do this independently.</p> <p>People credited with this unit standard are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – demonstrate knowledge of acute mental illness, for an ambulance context; – demonstrate knowledge of signs, symptoms, differential diagnoses, and assessment techniques for common acute mental illness, for an ambulance context; and – develop a management plan for a patient with an acute mental illness in an ambulance context.
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Classification	Emergency Services > Ambulance
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Available grade	Achieved
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Prerequisites	Unit 29323, <i>Gather and record information to support patient assessment</i> , or demonstrate equivalent knowledge and skills.
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Guidance Information

1 Definitions

Ambulance context – situations where emergency care is delivered in a variety of out-of-hospital environments. Out-of-hospital environments refer to any situation in which people require medical assistance outside of a controlled medical environment, such as a medical centre. These out-of-hospital environments include situations both in and away from an ambulance vehicle.

Best practice – for the purposes of this standard, a clinical technique or methodology that has proven to be most effective at delivering a desired outcome and is actively promoted across the ambulance and/or emergency care sector.

Clinical procedures and guidelines – the written procedures particular to each ambulance service and endorsed by Ambulance New Zealand.

Standing orders – written instructions issued by a medical practitioner that authorise individuals engaged in the delivery of health services to supply and administer certain medicines without a prescription in circumstances specified in the instruction.

2 References

Health and Disability Commissioner (Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights) Regulations 1996;
and all subsequent amendments and replacements.

3 Range

Performance in relation to the outcomes in this unit standard is to comply with current clinical procedures and guidelines and/or standing orders and/or current best practice and be appropriate to the patient's condition.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of acute mental illness, for an ambulance context.

Performance criteria

1.1 Describe the categories of acute mental illness according to their presentations.

Range includes but is not limited to – anxiety disorder, psychosis, mood disorder, personality disorder, self harm.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate knowledge of signs, symptoms, differential diagnoses, and assessment techniques for common acute mental illness, for an ambulance context.

Performance criteria

2.1 Describe assessment techniques for common acute mental illness according to the patient condition and the effectiveness of the technique.

Range includes but is not limited to – communication, safety of the patient and carer, outcomes, self-harm risk.

2.2 Describe signs and symptoms of common acute mental illness.

2.3 Describe differential diagnoses for acute mental illness.

Range includes but is not limited to – organic disorders, metabolic disorders, intoxication.

Outcome 3

Develop a management plan for a patient with an acute mental illness in an ambulance context.

Performance criteria

3.1 Describe the general management steps for patients with acute mental illnesses.

3.2 Describe specific interventions used in the management of patients with acute mental illnesses.

Range may include but is not limited to – de-escalation techniques, assistance by other healthcare professional, police assistance.

3.3 Develop, explain, and justify a management plan for a patient with an acute mental illness.

Planned review date	31 December 2021
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	22 August 2008	31 December 2019
Review	2	5 May 2016	N/A
Revision	3	25 July 2019	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0121
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact The Skills Organisation reviewcomments@skills.org.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.