



**BANKSTOWN HOSPITAL
Emergency Department**

PHYSICAL HEALTH REVIEW FOR MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

PURPOSE

Patients presenting with behavioural disturbance may occasionally have a physical or organic cause for their abnormal behaviour. The most common causes include drugs in younger patients and infection in the elderly. They cause the altered mental state known as “delirium” or “organic illness.”

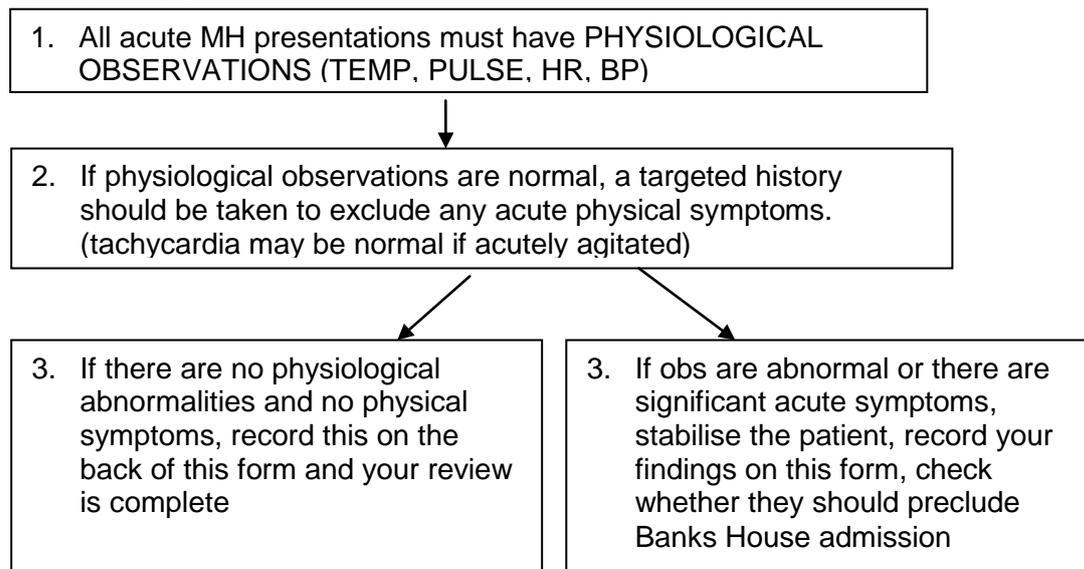
Anyone presenting with a history of dangerous drug ingestion, or any patient aged over 65 with behavioural disturbance, will need standard medical management to exclude or stabilise an organic (as opposed to psychiatric) condition.

Patients presenting with a recurrence of their known mental illness, and assessed by MH staff as requiring admission to Banks House, do not need an “insurance” examination – they only need sufficient history and physiological observations to exclude an acute delirium. Long-term non-acute medical issues, which have not contributed to the acute presentation, do not need to be sorted out acutely in ED, but can be followed up by the medical team in Banks House.

In general, acute patients who have been seen acutely by a psychiatric registrar, and have been assessed as needing an acute MH (Banks House) admission, do not need any additional acute medical review unless there is a specific acute problem identified. As psychiatry registrars are clinical doctors, their assessment will exclude a delirium or other organic cause for the acute presentation.

Where patients being admitted to Banks House have only been assessed on-site by a non-medical member of the acute MH team, the ED should provide the delirium or organic illness check.

WHAT TO DO



AUTHORISED BY DR LINDA DANN AUG 07

**THIS FORM HAS TWO SIDES
WRITE YOUR NOTES ON THE BACK**



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PHYSICAL HEALTH REVIEW FOR MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

(this form has two sides – see guidelines on back)

Patient's details (or sticker)

Name
Age
DOB
Address

Brief description of presenting problem:

Physiological Observations:

Heart rate	BP	Temp.	Resp. rate	O2Sats	BSL

Any acute physical health problems (including ingestion or drug side-effects) ?

Is the patient excessively drowsy or confused?(distinguish confusion from psychosis)

Can you find any evidence of physical cause for the acute presentation?

Are there any issues that the psychiatry team should follow-up?

ED doctor's name printed

Signed

Date and time