

## SFHHPC3

### Advise on the fitness of individuals for police interview



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#### Overview

This standard is about healthcare professionals advising police on the fitness of individuals for interview. It includes taking account of relevant background information and the results of any physical or mental health assessments to decide whether the individual has the functional ability to participate in an interview. Consideration would be given to whether conducting an interview could worsen the individual's physical or mental health condition and whether their testimony could later be relied on in court proceedings. Note: This would be carried out following any physical or mental health assessments of the individual.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 obtain all available background information on the circumstances of the arrest including the condition of the individual on arrest and whilst in custody
- P2 communicate with the individual and with police officers/staff clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- P3 consider the outcomes of any physical and mental health examinations of the
- P4 assess whether conducting an interview could worsen any existing physical illness or mental health condition
- P5 assess the risk of unreliability for subsequent court proceedings of anything said or done by the detained individual due to their physical or mental state
- P6 assess how the functional ability of the individual may affect the capacity of the detained individual to function properly in the interview situation
- P7 advise on the need for an appropriate adult to be present where the interview is of
  - P7.1 child, young person or an individual who appears to be mentally disordered, mentally vulnerable or with learning difficulties
- P8 advise on the individual's continued fitness for interview e.g. during an interview, or when an interview is not completed within a specified time
- P9 where the individual is judged unfit for interview, advise whether the individual's condition is likely to improve, including
  - P9.1 whether the individual will require or be amenable to treatment
  - P9.2 how long it may take for likely improvement to take effect
- P10 recognise the limitations of your own knowledge, experience and authority, and refer to specialists where required
- P11 provide a written record of any advice or recommendations made to the police using the relevant documentation
- P12 keep accurate, legible and complete contemporaneous records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 how to obtain background information about the individual and their circumstances
- K2 how physical or mental conditions may be worsened to a significant degree by an interview e.g.
  - K2.1 due to delays in obtaining treatment
  - K2.2 due to the stress of the interview
- K3 how a detainee's physical or mental health condition, or learning difficulties, might affect their functional ability to fully participate in an interview
- K4 how the nature of an interview could affect the detainee
- K5 relevant assessment tools e.g. questionnaires
- K6 when it is necessary for an appropriate adult to be present at an interview
- K7 people who may act as an appropriate adult, in accordance with national legislation and codes of practice
- K8 factors that may result in an individual being more likely to provide an unreliable confession e.g.
  - K8.1 physical and mental health conditions
  - K8.2 substance use
  - K8.3 personality traits
- K9 physical illness which may have possible effects on an individual's cognition
- K10 concerns an individual may have about their physical health which may increase their vulnerability e.g. concerns about the availability of medication or medical care
- K11 ways in which an individual's mental health condition may affect the reliability of their testimony
- K12 personality characteristics which may affect the reliability of an individual's testimony e.g.
  - K12.1 suggestibility
  - K12.2 compliance
  - K12.3 acquiescence
- K13 the potential effects of different types of substance use on an individual's functional ability e.g.
  - K13.1 stimulants
  - K13.2 depressants
  - K13.3 hallucinogens
- K14 the potential effects of withdrawal from alcohol and drugs and how this may influence an individual's testimony
- K15 how to balance the individual's need for medication (including substitution therapy) with the likely influence on fitness for interview

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- K16 who should be regarded as mentally disordered or mentally vulnerable in accordance with relevant guidelines and codes of practice
  - K17 how to communicate clearly and in ways that promote understanding
  - K18 how to keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines
  - K19 national legislation and codes of practice governing fitness for interview

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### Additional Information

#### External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB2 Assessment and care planning to meet people's health and wellbeing needs

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