Mental Health Act patient information in the London Care Record: A guide for health and care staff

Overview

Information about whether a patient is, or has been, detained and treated under the **Mental Health Act (MHA)** is now available in the **London Care Record** from organisations using the eMHA by Thalamos system.

If you use the London Care Record you can see the summary of patients' MHA legal status from participating organisations when relevant, guiding you to seek more information from the organisation about the patient's care and treatment.

Information will be available in the London Care Record for four years following the end date of a person's MHA legal status (ie from when they stopped being assessed and treated under the MHA).

This will help to ensure you have more of the information you need at the point of care to support your decision making.

This short guide sets out more detailed information about the MHA status information that is available, what it means and how to find this in the London Care Record.

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Supporting safer, faster and more joined-up mental healthcare in London

What's new?

The MHA sets out a legal process that protects patients with mental health conditions who need to be detained and treated. This helps ensure they get the right treatment in a safe way.

A new digital tool called **eMHA by Thalamos** has been introduced in the Capital to modernise how health and care staff access, record and share information about patients who have been detained under the MHA.

Summary information from this eMHA by Thalamos system is now available in the **London Care Record**. This means that when you use the London Care Record to find information about a patient in your care you can now also check whether they are, or have been, receiving care under the MHA.

This will help to inform the decisions you take about a patient's care and support safer, faster and more joined-up care for people detained under the MHA.

What MHA information is available?

The following information is available in the London Care Record:

- **MHA Legal Status** – whether a patient is, or has been detained and treated under the MHA
- **Start Date and End Date** – the dates of the detention and treatment
- **Detaining Organisation** e.g. hospital name and site

Information will be available for **four years** following the end date of a person's MHA legal status (ie from when they stopped being assessed and treated under the MHA).

Key guidance

The MHA summary information helps to provide a flag that a patient is currently receiving, or has recently received, care under the MHA. This can help inform the decisions you take.

If your patient has a current or recent MHA Status it is recommended that you contact the detaining organisations to find out more information about the assessment and treatment of the patient. The name of the detaining organisation can be seen alongside the patient's MHA Status.

If a patient does not have an MHA Status in the London Care Record it does not necessarily mean they are not currently receiving, or have not recently received, care under the MHA. Not all organisations use the eMHA by Thalamos system and not all MHA paperwork is completed using the eMHA by Thalamos system.

More details about MHA Status Information

The London Care Record will show whether a patient is being, or has recently been assessed, detained and treated under Section 2, Section 3, Section 4, Section 5(2) or Section 5(4) of the MHA or under a Community Treatment Order under the MHA.

Section	Description
Section 2	**Admission for assessment** Allows person to be admitted to hospital for up to 28 days for assessment and diagnosis.
Section 3	**Admission for Treatment** Allows person to be admitted to hospital for up to 6 months for treatment if they have a mental disorder.
Section 4	**Admission for assessment in cases of emergency** An emergency provision for admission of assessment. It can last up to 72 hours and might be followed by a Section 2 or Section 3.
Section 5(2)	**Detention by hospital (by doctor)** Known as a holding section – used by a doctor to detain patient for up to 72 hours for assessment and treatment.
Section 5(4)	**Detention by hospital (by mental health nurse)**Holding section used by a nurse to detain patient for up to 6 hours, to allow time for a doctor to be called to assess them.
CTO	**Community Treatment Order** Allows for treatment in the community rather than in hospital, with a risk of recall if conditions are breached.

Further information

Further information about the MHA is available here. Further information about the London Care Record is available here. Further information about the eMHA by Thalamos system is available here.

Finding MHA Legal Status information in the London Care Record

MHA Legal Status information shared from the eMHA by Thalamos system is available in three places in the London Care Record:

- **Banner**
- **Alert Widget**
- **Mental Health Widget**

These are shown below using test patient information.

1. Banner & Alert Widget

The Banner and Alert Widget are used to show a current active detention under the MHA.

The Banner (warning line) is displayed when there is information to view in the Alerts widget.

Notes:

- Information in the Alerts widget may not necessarily be MHA related, alert information from other organisations may be included in this widget.

- The Alerts widget may not be visible to all London Care Record users. If it is not available to you speak to your local service desk who can set this up for you.


The Alerts Widget will show information about the current detention – this includes the MHA section and description, the detention start and expiry date, and the detaining Trust.

The Summary view shows the Section and description, detention start date (date onset) and source. The dropdown can be changed to 'Details', which will show these fields with the expiry date of the section.

Hovering over the alert with the cursor displays more information.
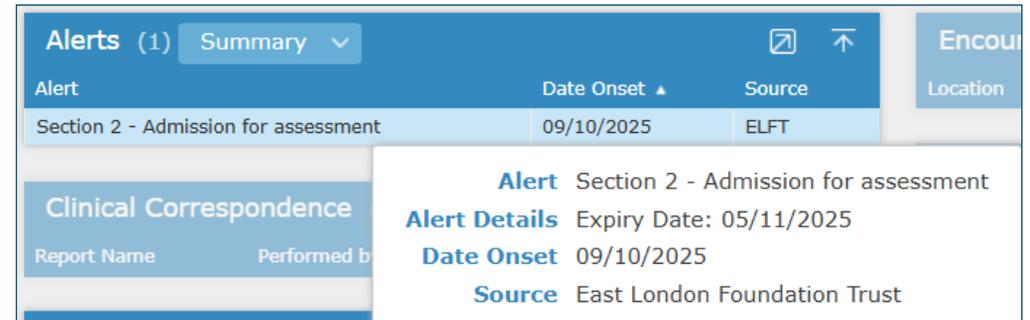
It is important to note that the Banner and Alert will no longer show once the Section end date is reached and the patient is no longer being detained or assessed under the MHA.

2. Mental Health Widget

The Mental Health widget contains documents relating to mental health from different providers across London.

For eMHA by Thalamos, a MHA Status Summary report will show as a document in the Mental Health widget. These documents will show both active current detention information and previous detention history.

Hovering over the report will show further information indicating report name, date, status and source (detaining Trust).

Clicking on the Mental Health Act Status Summary report, opens the document in the main window.
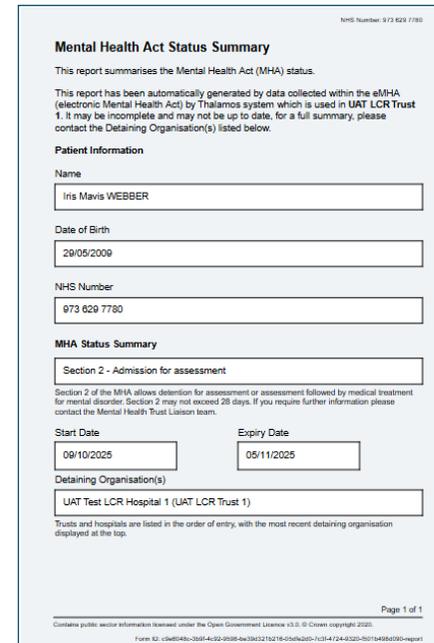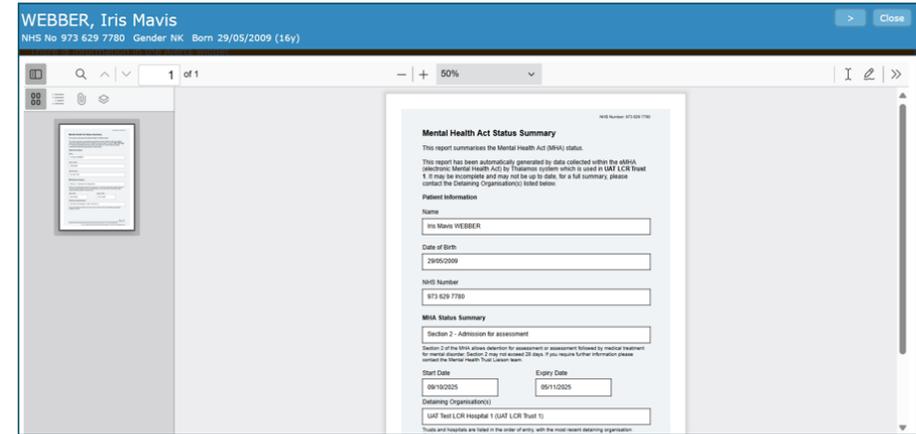
A brief overview of the section and its associated time limits is included; for more detailed information or a comprehensive summary, users are advised to contact the Mental Health team at the relevant Trust.

Note – the report is not a statutory Mental Health Act Form. It is a document designed to provide professionals with details of the patient's current and historical detention, using familiar language to ensure clarity.

FAQs

How will this MHA information help me?

People who are or who have recently been receiving care under the MHA may have some very specific care needs. Being able to see their MHA Legal Status will help inform the care you provide and make it easier to find more information about the care they are receiving or have recently received. It also helps avoid the patient from having to repeat the history of their care and may also help to avoid duplicating unnecessary tests and procedures.

This is better for the patient as it supports more joined up, safer and faster care. It can also save you valuable time.

What organisations use eMHA by Thalamos?

The eMHA by Thalamos system has been introduced at five of London's Mental Health Trusts and their partner organisations - East London NHS Foundation Trust, North East London NHS Foundation Trust, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust.

Why is MHA status information not available for all patients in London?

The eMHA by Thalamos system is not currently used by North London NHS Foundation Trust, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust and the West London NHS Trust.

In addition in some cases MHA forms might not be completed and shared digitally, meaning MHA Legal Status information will not be available in the London Care Record.

How secure is this information?

The London Care Record uses a secure system that meets NHS and social care security standards.

Who can access it?

Only staff directly involved in patient's care can view their information in the London Care Record, including MHA Legal Status information. The system keeps an audit trail of who accesses patient information.

How do I get access to the London Care Record?

You can view the health and care organisations who currently have access to the London Care Record here. If you work for one of these with access to the system speak to your local service desk about accessing it.