



Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995

1995 CHAPTER 52

U.K.

An Act to make provision for certain mentally disordered patients in England and Wales to receive after-care under supervision after leaving hospital; to provide for the making of community care orders in the case of certain mentally disordered patients in Scotland; to amend the law relating to mentally disordered patients absent without leave or on leave of absence from hospital; and for connected purposes. [8th November 1995]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Commencement Information

II Act not in force at Royal Assent; Act wholly in force at 1.4.1996 see [s. 7\(2\)](#)

England and Wales

1 After-care under supervision. U.K.

^{F1}(1)

(2) Schedule 1 to this Act (supplementary provisions about after-care under supervision) shall have effect.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 1(1) repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 56(1), [Sch. 11 Pt. 5](#); S.I. 2008/1210, art. 2(d)

2 Absence without leave. **U.K.**

- (1) In section 18 of the ^{M1}Mental Health Act 1983 (return of patients absent without leave), for subsection (4) (which provides that a patient may not be taken into custody after the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the first day of his absence without leave) there shall be substituted the following subsection—

“(4) A patient shall not be taken into custody under this section after the later of—

- (a) the end of the period of six months beginning with the first day of his absence without leave; and
- (b) the end of the period for which (apart from section 21 below) he is liable to be detained or subject to guardianship;

and, in determining for the purposes of paragraph (b) above or any other provision of this Act whether a person who is or has been absent without leave is at any time liable to be detained or subject to guardianship, a report furnished under section 20 or 21B below before the first day of his absence without leave shall not be taken to have renewed the authority for his detention or guardianship unless the period of renewal began before that day.”

- (2) For section 21 of that Act (duration of authority for detention and guardianship: special provisions as to patients absent without leave) there shall be substituted the following sections—

“21 Special provisions as to patients absent without leave.

- (1) Where a patient is absent without leave—
- (a) on the day on which (apart from this section) he would cease to be liable to be detained or subject to guardianship under this Part of this Act; or
 - (b) within the period of one week ending with that day,
- he shall not cease to be so liable or subject until the relevant time.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) above the relevant time—
- (a) where the patient is taken into custody under section 18 above, is the end of the period of one week beginning with the day on which he is returned to the hospital or place where he ought to be;
 - (b) where the patient returns himself to the hospital or place where he ought to be within the period during which he can be taken into custody under section 18 above, is the end of the period of one week beginning with the day on which he so returns himself; and
 - (c) otherwise, is the end of the period during which he can be taken into custody under section 18 above.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995. (See end of Document for details)

21A Patients who are taken into custody or return within 28 days.

- (1) This section applies where a patient who is absent without leave is taken into custody under section 18 above, or returns himself to the hospital or place where he ought to be, not later than the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the first day of his absence without leave.
- (2) Where the period for which the patient is liable to be detained or subject to guardianship is extended by section 21 above, any examination and report to be made and furnished in respect of the patient under section 20(3) or (6) above may be made and furnished within the period as so extended.
- (3) Where the authority for the detention or guardianship of the patient is renewed by virtue of subsection (2) above after the day on which (apart from section 21 above) that authority would have expired, the renewal shall take effect as from that day.

21B Patients who are taken into custody or return after more than 28 days.

- (1) This section applies where a patient who is absent without leave is taken into custody under section 18 above, or returns himself to the hospital or place where he ought to be, later than the end of the period of 28 days beginning with the first day of his absence without leave.
- (2) It shall be the duty of the appropriate medical officer, within the period of one week beginning with the day on which the patient is returned or returns himself to the hospital or place where he ought to be—
 - (a) to examine the patient; and
 - (b) if it appears to him that the relevant conditions are satisfied, to furnish to the appropriate body a report to that effect in the prescribed form;and where such a report is furnished in respect of the patient the appropriate body shall cause him to be informed.
- (3) Where the patient is liable to be detained (as opposed to subject to guardianship), the appropriate medical officer shall, before furnishing a report under subsection (2) above, consult—
 - (a) one or more other persons who have been professionally concerned with the patient's medical treatment; and
 - (b) an approved social worker.
- (4) Where the patient would (apart from any renewal of the authority for his detention or guardianship on or after the day on which he is returned or returns himself to the hospital or place where he ought to be) be liable to be detained or subject to guardianship after the end of the period of one week beginning with that day, he shall cease to be so liable or subject at the end of that period unless a report is duly furnished in respect of him under subsection (2) above.
- (5) Where the patient would (apart from section 21 above) have ceased to be liable to be detained or subject to guardianship on or before the day on which a report is duly furnished in respect of him under subsection (2) above, the report shall renew the authority for his detention or guardianship for the period prescribed in that case by section 20(2) above.

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- (6) Where the authority for the detention or guardianship of the patient is renewed by virtue of subsection (5) above—
 - (a) the renewal shall take effect as from the day on which (apart from section 21 above and that subsection) the authority would have expired; and
 - (b) if (apart from this paragraph) the renewed authority would expire on or before the day on which the report is furnished, the report shall further renew the authority, as from the day on which it would expire, for the period prescribed in that case by section 20(2) above.
- (7) Where the authority for the detention or guardianship of the patient would expire within the period of two months beginning with the day on which a report is duly furnished in respect of him under subsection (2) above, the report shall, if it so provides, have effect also as a report duly furnished under section 20(3) or (6) above; and the reference in this subsection to authority includes any authority renewed under subsection (5) above by the report.
- (8) Where the form of mental disorder specified in a report furnished under subsection (2) above is a form of disorder other than that specified in the application for admission for treatment or guardianship application concerned (and the report does not have effect as a report furnished under section 20(3) or (6) above), that application shall have effect as if that other form of mental disorder were specified in it.
- (9) Where on any occasion a report specifying such a form of mental disorder is furnished under subsection (2) above the appropriate medical officer need not on that occasion furnish a report under section 16 above.
- (10) In this section—
 - “appropriate medical officer” has the same meaning as in section 16(5) above;
 - “the appropriate body” means—
 - (a) in relation to a patient who is liable to be detained in a hospital, the managers of the hospital; and
 - (b) in relation to a patient who is subject to guardianship, the responsible local social services authority; and
 - “the relevant conditions” means—
 - (a) in relation to a patient who is liable to be detained in a hospital, the conditions set out in subsection (4) of section 20 above; and
 - (b) in relation to a patient who is subject to guardianship, the conditions set out in subsection (7) of that section.”
- (3) In section 22 of that Act (special provisions as to patients sentenced to imprisonment etc.)—
 - (a) in subsection (2) (detained patient in whose case application for admission for treatment or guardianship application does not cease to have effect), for the words “and 21” there shall be substituted “, 21 and 21A ”; and
 - (b) after that subsection there shall be inserted the following subsection—
 - “(3) In its application by virtue of subsection (2) above section 18(4) above shall have effect with the substitution of the words “end of the period

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of 28 days beginning with the first day of his absence without leave.”
for the words from “later of” onwards.”

- (4) In section 40 of that Act (effect of hospital orders and guardianship orders), after subsection (5) there shall be inserted the following subsection—

“(6) Where—

- (a) a patient admitted to a hospital in pursuance of a hospital order is absent without leave;
 - (b) a warrant to arrest him has been issued under section 72 of the ^{M2}Criminal Justice Act 1967; and
 - (c) he is held pursuant to the warrant in any country or territory other than the United Kingdom, any of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man,
- he shall be treated as having been taken into custody under section 18 above on first being so held.”

- (5) In section 61 of that Act (review of treatment), in subsection (1) (report on treatment and patient’s condition to be given to Secretary of State), in paragraph (a) (report to be given when report furnished under section 20(3)), for the words “in respect of the patient under section 20(3) above” there shall be substituted “ under section 20(3) or 21B(2) above renewing the authority for the detention of the patient ”.

- (6) In section 66 of that Act (applications to tribunals)—

- (a) in subsection (1) (cases where application may be made), after paragraph (f) there shall be inserted the following paragraphs—
 - “(fa) a report is furnished under subsection (2) of section 21B above in respect of a patient and subsection (5) of that section applies (or subsections (5) and (6)(b) of that section apply) in the case of the report; or
 - (fb) a report is furnished under subsection (2) of section 21B above in respect of a patient and subsection (8) of that section applies in the case of the report; or”; and
- (b) in subsection (2) (period within which application may be made), in paragraph (d), after “(d)” there shall be inserted “ , (fb) ” and, in paragraph (f), for the words “of that subsection, the period” there shall be substituted “ or (fa) of that subsection, the period or periods ”.

- (7) In section 68 of that Act (duty of managers of hospitals to refer cases to tribunal), in subsection (2) (reference where detention is renewed under section 20 and three years have elapsed since last consideration of case), after “20” there shall be inserted “ or 21B ”.

- (8) In Schedule 1 to that Act (application of provisions to patients subject to hospital and guardianship orders), in Part I (patients not subject to special restrictions), in paragraph 1 (provisions applying without modification), for “21,” there shall be substituted “ 21 to 21B, ”.

Marginal Citations

M1 1983 c. 20.

M2 1967 c. 80.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995. (See end of Document for details)

3 Leave of absence from hospital. **U.K.**

- (1) In section 17 of the ^{M3}Mental Health Act 1983 (leave of absence for patient liable to be detained in a hospital under Part II of that Act), in subsection (5), the words from “; and without prejudice” to the end (which cause a patient on leave of absence to cease to be liable to be so detained six months after the beginning of his absence even though he would not otherwise have by then ceased to be so liable) shall be omitted.
- (2) In Schedule 1 to that Act (application of provisions to patients subject to hospital and guardianship orders), in Part II (patients subject to special restrictions), in paragraph 3(c) (modifications of section 17(5)), for the word “six” there shall be substituted “twelve”.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) apply where leave of absence has been granted to a patient before the day on which this section comes into force (as well as where it is granted to a patient after that day).

Marginal Citations

M3 1983 c. 20.

Scotland

^{F24} Community care orders. **U.K.**

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Textual Amendments

- F2** Ss. 4-6 repealed (S.) (5.10.2005) by [Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 13\)](#), s. 333(2), [Sch. 5 Pt. 1](#); S.S.I. 2005/161, art. 3 (as substituted (1.7.2005) by S.S.I. 2005/375, art. 2 and as amended (22.9.2005) by S.S.I. 2005/459, art. 2)

^{F25} Absence without leave. **U.K.**

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Textual Amendments

- F2** Ss. 4-6 repealed (S.) (5.10.2005) by [Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 13\)](#), s. 333(2), [Sch. 5 Pt. 1](#); S.S.I. 2005/161, art. 3 (as substituted (1.7.2005) by S.S.I. 2005/375, art. 2 and as amended (22.9.2005) by S.S.I. 2005/459, art. 2)

^{F26} Leave of absence from hospital. **U.K.**

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F2** Ss. 4-6 repealed (S.) (5.10.2005) by [Mental Health \(Care and Treatment\) \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 13\)](#), s. 333(2), [Sch. 5 Pt. 1](#); S.S.I. 2005/161, art. 3 (as substituted (1.7.2005) by [S.S.I. 2005/375](#), art. 2 and as amended (22.9.2005) by [S.S.I. 2005/459](#), art. 2)

Supplementary

7 Short title, commencement and extent. **U.K.**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on 1st April 1996.
- (3) The provisions of this Act which amend other enactments have the same extent as the enactments which they amend.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the
Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995. (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 U.K. Section 1(2).

AFTER-CARE UNDER SUPERVISION: SUPPLEMENTARY

Records

- 1 In section 24 of the ^{M4}Mental Health Act 1983 (visiting and examination of patients), in each of subsections (2) and (4) (records) at the end there shall be inserted the words “ or to any after-care services provided for the patient under section 117 below. ”

Marginal Citations

M4 1983 c. 20.

Regulations

- 2 In section 32 of that Act (regulations for purposes of Part II), in subsection (2)(c) (records etc.)—
- (a) for the words “the managers of hospitals and local social services authorities” there shall be substituted “ such bodies as may be prescribed by the regulations ”;
 - (b) for the words “prescribed by the regulations” there shall be substituted “ so prescribed ”; ^{F3}...
 - ^{F3}(c)

Textual Amendments

F3 Sch. 1 para. 2(c) and preceding word repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\), s. 56\(1\), Sch. 11 Pt. 5; S.I. 2008/1210, art. 2\(d\)](#)

Wards of court

^{F4}3

Textual Amendments

F4 Sch. 1 para. 3 repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\), s. 56\(1\), Sch. 11 Pt. 5; S.I. 2008/1210, art. 2\(d\)](#)

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the
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Medical officers and supervisors

F54

Textual Amendments

F5 Sch. 1 para. 4 repealed (3.11.2008) by Mental Health Act 2007 (c. 12), s. 56(1), Sch. 11 Pt. 5; S.I. 2008/1210, art. 2(d)

Part III patients

5 In section 41 of that Act (power of higher courts to restrict discharge from hospital of persons subject to hospital order), in subsection (3) (nature of special restrictions), after paragraph (a) there shall be inserted the following paragraph—
“(aa) none of the provisions of Part II of this Act relating to after-care under supervision shall apply;”.

F66

Textual Amendments

F6 Sch. 1 para. 6 repealed (3.11.2008) by Mental Health Act 2007 (c. 12), s. 56(1), Sch. 11 Pt. 5; S.I. 2008/1210, art. 2(d)

Mental Health Review Tribunals

F77

Textual Amendments

F7 Sch. 1 para. 7 repealed (3.11.2008) by Mental Health Act 2007 (c. 12), s. 56(1), Sch. 11 Pt. 5; S.I. 2008/1210, art. 2(d)

8 (1) Section 67 of that Act (references to tribunals by Secretary of State) shall be amended in accordance with sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) below.

F8(2)

(3) In subsection (2) (power of registered medical practitioner to require records), at the end there shall be inserted the words “ or to any after-care services provided for the patient under section 117 below ”.

Textual Amendments

F8 Sch. 1 para. 8(2) repealed (3.11.2008) by Mental Health Act 2007 (c. 12), s. 56(1), Sch. 11 Pt. 5; S.I. 2008/1210, art. 2(d)

9 In section 68 of that Act (duty of managers of hospitals to refer cases to tribunal), in subsection (3) (power of registered medical practitioner to require records), at the end there shall be inserted the words “ or to any after-care services provided for the patient under section 117 below ”.

- 10
- F9

(1)
- F9

(2)
- F9

(3)
- F10

(4)

Textual Amendments

F9

Sch. 1 para. 10(1)-(3) repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 56(1), [Sch. 11 Pt. 5](#); [S.I. 2008/1210](#), art. 2(d)

F10

Sch. 1 para. 10(4) repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 56(1), [Sch. 11 Pt. 1](#); [S.I. 2008/1900](#), art. 2(p) (with art. 3Sch.)

- 11
- In section 76(1) of that Act (visiting and examination of patients)—
- F11

(a)
- (b)

in paragraph (b), at the end there shall be inserted the words “ or to any after-care services provided for the patient under section 117 below. ”

Textual Amendments

F11

Sch. 1 para. 11(a) repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 56(1), [Sch. 11 Pt. 5](#); [S.I. 2008/1210](#), art. 2(d)

- F12

12

Textual Amendments

F12

Sch. 1 para. 12 repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 56(1), [Sch. 11 Pt. 5](#); [S.I. 2008/1210](#), art. 2(d)

- F13

13

Textual Amendments

F13

Sch. 1 para. 13 repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 56(1), [Sch. 11 Pt. 5](#); [S.I. 2008/1210](#), art. 2(d)

- 14
- In Schedule 1 to that Act (application of provisions to patients subject to hospital and guardianship orders), in Part I (patients not subject to special restrictions), in paragraph 9(b) (modifications of section 66(2)), for the words from “shall be omitted” to the end there shall be substituted “ , and in paragraph (d) “ , (g)”, shall be omitted. ”

After-care services

- 15
- (1) Section 117 of that Act (after-care services) shall be amended in accordance with sub-paragraphs (2) to (4) below.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the
Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995. (See end of Document for details)

- (2) In subsection (1) (persons to whom section 117 applies), after the words “detained and” there shall be inserted “ (whether or not immediately after so ceasing) ”.
- (3) In subsection (2) (duty of authorities to provide after-care services), at the end there shall be inserted the words “ ; but they shall not be so satisfied in the case of a patient who is subject to after-care under supervision at any time while he remains so subject. ”
- (4) After that subsection there shall be inserted the following subsections—
- “(2A) It shall be the duty of the Health Authority to secure that at all times while a patient is subject to after-care under supervision—
- (a) a person who is a registered medical practitioner approved for the purposes of section 12 above by the Secretary of State as having special experience in the diagnosis or treatment of mental disorder is in charge of the medical treatment provided for the patient as part of the after-care services provided for him under this section; and
- (b) a person professionally concerned with any of the after-care services so provided is supervising him with a view to securing that he receives the after-care services so provided.
- (2B) Section 32 above shall apply for the purposes of this section as it applies for the purposes of Part II of this Act.”

Code of practice

- 16 In section 118 of that Act (code of practice), in subsection (1)(a) (guidance to medical practitioners, social workers etc.), after the word “Act” there shall be inserted “ and to guardianship and after-care under supervision under this Act ”.

Offences

- 17 In section 126 of that Act (forgery, false statements etc.), in subsection (3)(b) (subsection (1) to apply to medical recommendations and reports), after the word “medical” there shall be inserted “ or other ”.

F14 18

Textual Amendments

F14 Sch. 1 para. 18 repealed (3.11.2008) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 56(1), [Sch. 11 Pt. 5](#); [S.I. 2008/1210](#), art. 2(d)

- 19 In section 129 of that Act (obstruction), in subsection (1)(b) (refusal to allow visiting, interviewing or examination by a person authorised by or under the Act), after the word “Act” there shall be inserted “ or to give access to any person to a person so authorised ”.

Interpretation

F15 20

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the
Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995. (See end of Document for details)*

Textual Amendments

F15 Sch. 1 para. 20 repealed (3.11.2008) by Mental Health Act 2007 (c. 12), s. 56(1), Sch. 11 Pt. 5; S.I. 2008/1210, art. 2(d)

^{F16}SCHEDULE 2 **U.K.**

Section 4(2).

Textual Amendments

F16 Sch. 2 repealed (S.) (5.10.2005) by Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 13), s. 333(2), Sch. 5 Pt. 1; S.S.I. 2005/161, art. 3 (as substituted (1.7.2005) by S.S.I. 2005/375, art. 2 and as amended (22.9.2005) by S.S.I. 2005/459, art. 2)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Mental Health (Patients in the Community) Act 1995.