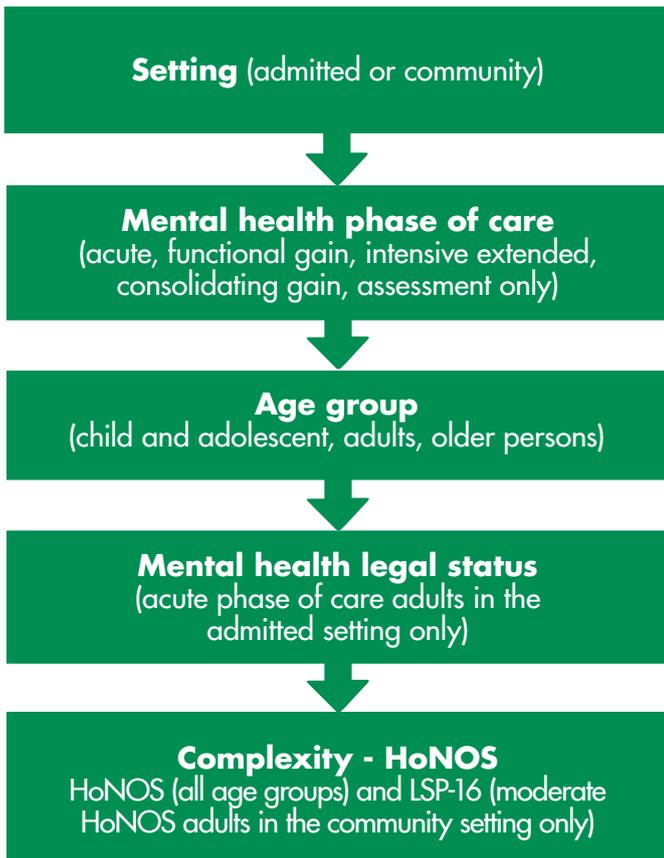


Australian Mental Health Care Classification

The Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC) Version 1.0 was developed to provide more accurate and consistent data about the services provided across different mental health care settings. It is a clinically relevant classification that explains resource consumption (costs) at the consumer level. The AMHCC has the potential to support integrated service delivery by providing data across different service settings and health services. It also enables mental health services to be priced and funded on an activity basis.

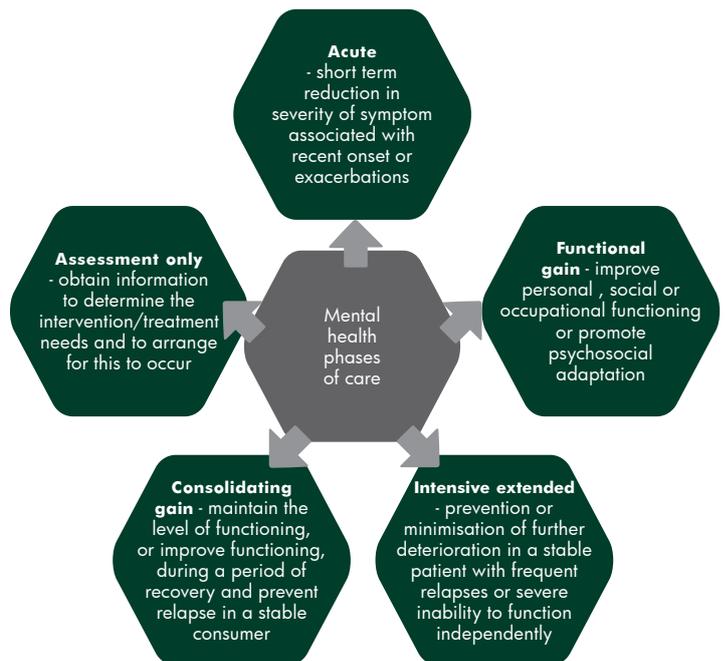
AMHCC variables

The AMHCC Version 1.0 incorporates the following variables: setting (admitted or community), the new concept 'mental health phase of care', consumer age group, and variables to capture complexity such as the Health of the Nation Outcome Scale (HoNOS), mental health legal status (for adults in an acute phase of care in the admitted setting), and the Life Skills Profile [(LSP-16) for moderate HoNOS adults in the community setting.]



What is the mental health phase of care?

The mental health phase of care is a key concept in the AMHCC and describes the primary goal of care for a consumer at a specific point in time. It is reported prospectively and describes the type and intensity of care expected for a consumer. Mental health phase of care can therefore be considered as a subset of an episode of care, with multiple mental health phases of care potentially making up an episode of care. There is no limit on the number of mental health phases of care that can occur within an episode of care.



A consumer's mental health phase of care is rated by a clinician in consultation with the consumer and the clinical review team. Understanding differences in the perspectives of consumers and clinicians is integral to clinical conversations and fundamental to personal ownership and responsibility. Therefore, where practical, the consumer should be involved, and aware of, the assignment of a mental health phase of care.

In addition, the consumer's family members, partner or friend should be actively involved (as much as possible) in the consumer's care. The amount of support offered by the clinician will take into account the needs of the family member, partner or friend.

Assigning a mental health phase of care should reflect the primary treating team/clinician's judgement and should not inhibit the delivery of recovery orientation practice.

How is a mental health phase of care assigned?

- The consumer is assessed:
 - on admission/registration to a service,
 - on transfer of care between service settings, or
 - where there has been a substantial and sustained change in the consumer's presentation prompting a change to the mental health care plan.
- The assessment should be undertaken by the clinician(s) along with someone who has the best understanding of the consumer's presentation and need for intervention, typically the case manager or primary treatment clinician/mental health team.
- The mental health phase of care is not collected at every contact made with the consumer and cannot be changed whilst a consumer is on leave from a health care service.
- A consumer will only have one mental health phase of care at any time. When care is co-managed or provided by multiple mental health services in the same setting, the mental health phase of care should be agreed upon by the various treatment providers. The mental health care plan should include all activity undertaken by all relevant treatment providers in that setting, and the mental health phase of care should align with this mental health care plan. In instances where patient is in a concurrent episode, the goal of care should be consistent amongst providers and thus there will only be one phase of care which should be the same across settings.
- Outcome measures and reporting requirements for the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection continue to be required.

Further information

Further information about the Australian Mental Health Care Classification is available in the following documents are available on IHPA's website www.ihoa.gov.au.

- **AMHCC User Manual** – designed to provide detailed information for users of the AMHCC Version 1.0.
- **AMHCC Mental health phase of care guide** – provides practical guidance on how to assess the mental health phase of care for a consumer.

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