



INforMHAA: Interpreter-mediated Mental Health Act Assessments

Best practices for Approved Mental Health Professionals and Interpreters working together

RESOURCE R1: Introduction to the simulation videos

Introduction

As part of the project four simulations of Mental Health Act assessments (MHAAs) were filmed. These were filmed for three purposes:

- 1) To visually illustrate examples of good practice and not so good practice in AMHP and interpreter behaviours during an MHAA.
- 2) To use the simulations as part of further data collection by running online focus groups with AMHPs, interpreters and service users as a stimulant for discussion on what constitutes good and not so good practice.
- 3) To have a freely available training resource to be used in initial, reapproval and CPD training for AMHPs and interpreters.

Each video simulation was created using a scenario developed by the INforMHAA research team, drawing on our own experiences as AMHP and interpreter practitioners, as well as authentic experiences reported to us by AMHPs, interpreters and service users through our surveys and interviews.

Each video features professional actors playing the role of patient or parent, and a real AMHP. Three of the scenarios include a real professional interpreter. In three of the scenarios there was also a member of the INforMHAA research team or advisory group playing the role of an additional medical professional.

In each video the AMHP and Interpreter were both directed specifically to ask questions/ make decisions or interpret in such a way that highlights key issues that

can arise in these assessments. This is not a reflection of the quality of their skills as AMHPs or interpreters in real practice. We are grateful to the AMHPs and interpreters for being prepared on occasions not to demonstrate their usual excellent practice (!)

The goal in creating the scenarios to illustrate examples of good and not so good practice was to stimulate discussion about best practices for AMHPs and interpreters in working together.

Two ways to use the simulated practice work

We are using the scenarios in two different ways:

- In the first, the focus is more on the practice of interpreting with close attention to the interactions between the interpreter, the AMHP and the person being assessed. The videos we made are available to download from the INforMHAA website and details of where to find them can be found in Resource R3. Resource R4 provides guidance on how the videos might be used in interpreter training or joint interpreter/AMHP training.
- The second uses only the written information we created that supported the improvisation of the actors in the films because in their own right these semi-scripted scenarios are useful for training purposes. There is more detail in this version of the background and legal issues. They are suitable for initial AMHP training as well as for joint AMHP/interpreter (CPD). These can be found in Resource R2, with a background to each scenario and how they may be used in training.

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Document Description

This document is an **extracted section** from **INforMHAA Project Guidance & Resources** for use as a handy reference.

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