

A draft of the Best Practice Guidance was piloted and tested in four services across Ireland and it is with their support that the Best Practice Guidance has been launched.

“Being involved in the pilot was an opportunity to join the dots for safer better healthcare in a CAMHS [Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services] setting.”

“It’s great that frontline staff are involved in the development of these guidance. It was refreshing that the division asked working MDTs [multidisciplinary teams] to consider the practicalities of using the guidance”.

More information on the Best Practice Guidance including FAQ’s and what it means to you can be found on our website.
www.hse.ie/mentalhealthguidance



Best Practice Guidance for Mental Health Services

Supporting you to meet Regulatory
Requirements and towards
Continuous Quality Improvement

Developed by QSUS
Quality Service User Safety

Supporting you to meet Regulatory
Requirements and towards Continuous
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What is the Best Practice Guidance?

This Best Practice Guidance tells us what we need to do to make sure that children and adults in the care of our mental health services receive a high quality, safe service that meets their needs.

The Guidance is a concise document in that it describes reliable mental healthcare practices. We created the Guidance based on legislation. We also considered what has been shown to work well in mental health services. This is often called 'evidence-based practice'. We did this in consultation with:

- staff,
- service users,
- families, and
- carers.

We are asking our mental health services to assess themselves against the Guidance.



The Best Practice Guidance consists of:

- The Best Practice Guidance document, and
- A self-assessment IT tool called the GAIT – Guidance Assessment Improvement tool.

The Guidance is divided into five themes



We intend that the Guidance will support and guide continuous quality improvement in Irish HSE mental health services.

The Best Practice Guidance applies to all staff and management working in mental health services provided or funded by the HSE.

