

Submission for Review of the Mental Health Act 1986

24-2-2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to see more family/carer consultation by psychologists and case managers.

By contacting carers more regularly, they could make more informed decisions about patients well being.

Carers see their family every day, not once a month as psychiatrists do.

Better communication and feedback could benefit patient case care. Carers often feel helpless and shut out, yet they are often the ones who keep the patients stable and out of hospital.

Carers should be told before changes are made to medication or community treatment orders, as well as CTO reviews.

Privacy of information can create unnecessary tension. Psychiatrists and case managers prefer us to tell our son when we are ringing them, yet sometimes its information that is sensitive and about the patients' behaviour. So by telling them it's counter productive.

Your sincerely

Margot Beck