



Mental Health Act 1983

1983 CHAPTER 20

PART VIII

MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Functions of the Secretary of State

118 Code of practice.

- (1) The Secretary of State shall prepare, and from time to time revise, a code of practice—
 - (a) for the guidance of registered medical practitioners, managers and staff of hospitals and mental nursing homes and approved social workers in relation to the admission of patients to hospitals and mental nursing homes under this Act [^{F1}and to guardianship and after-care under supervision under this Act]; and
 - (b) for the guidance of registered medical practitioners and members of other professions in relation to the medical treatment of patients suffering from mental disorder.
- (2) The code shall, in particular, specify forms of medical treatment in addition to any specified by regulations made for the purposes of section 57 above which in the opinion of the Secretary of State give rise to special concern and which should accordingly not be given by a registered medical practitioner unless the patient has consented to the treatment (or to a plan of treatment including that treatment) and a certificate in writing as to the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of that section has been given by another registered medical practitioner, being a practitioner appointed for the purposes of this section by the Secretary of State.
- (3) Before preparing the code or making any alteration in it the Secretary of State shall consult such bodies as appear to him to be concerned.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall lay copies of the code and of any alteration in the code before Parliament; and if either House of Parliament passes a resolution requiring the code or any alteration in it to be withdrawn the Secretary of State shall withdraw

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/1996. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: *Mental Health Act 1983, Section 118 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

the code or alteration and, where he withdraws the code, shall prepare a code in substitution for the one which is withdrawn.

- (5) No resolution shall be passed by either House of Parliament under subsection (4) above in respect of a code or alteration after the expiration of the period of 40 days beginning with the day on which a copy of the code or alteration was laid before that House; but for the purposes of this subsection no account shall be taken of any time during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.
- (6) The Secretary of State shall publish the code as for the time being in force.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 118(1)(a) inserted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 52, ss. 1(2), 7(2), **Sch. 1**, para. 16

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