

ORDER REGARDING THE FUNDING, ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF MENTAL HEALTH CENTRES



Government of Romania
Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health

The Minister of Health,

On the grounds of the Government Decision no. 168 from 9 March 2005 regarding the organization and operation of the Ministry of Health, with the subsequent amendments, considering art. 22 from Law no. 487 /2002 for promoting mental health and protecting individuals with mental disorders, with the subsequent amendments,

Seeing the approval report of the General Directorate for Medical Assistance, Medical Structures and Remuneration no.....

Issues the following

Order

Art. 1

With a view to providing communitarian psychiatric assistance as of 01.01.2006, Mental Health Centres are founded by transforming the existing Mental Health Laboratories. Mental Health Centres other than those founded by transforming Mental Health Laboratories are founded with the observance of the legal provisions.

Art. 2

- (1) Mental Health Centres founding aims at ensuring the continuity of the communitarian care of individuals suffering from mental disorders.
- (2) The Mental Health Center is located within the community and ensures accessibility to services for a served population between 150,000 – 300,000 inhabitants.

Art. 3

- (1) The Mental Health Center satisfies the various care needs of individuals with mental health problems, providing primary assistance and ambulatory psychiatric assistance.

- (2) The therapeutic team offers assistance and support to family doctors from the psychiatric sector in providing mental health care. The therapeutic team collaborates with the family doctors from the territory.
- (3) Mental Health Centres receive patients sent by family doctors, by other specialists or other care structures, as well as by the social services in the territory.
- (4) Responsibilities of the Mental Health Center:
- detecting and treating mental health problems: depression, anxiety, stress related disorders, substance addiction and psychotic disorders, somatoform disorders.
 - offering patients with severe mental disorders, especially those with stabilized mental disorders who reside within the community, access to psychotropic medication and psycho-therapeutic operations in accordance with the specialized recommendations and good practice guides.
 - sending patients to specialists from other health sectors for complex cases.
 - providing crisis interventions which can prevent the development of acute states of illness and the aggravation of the pre-existing ones.
 - ensuring collaboration with other sectors necessary for patients with mental disorders, such as forensic medicine, temporary or protected shelters, protected workshops, work capacity expertise commissions, social aid sectors, education, other health sectors.

Art. 4

The Mental Health Center provides mobile assistance services and rehabilitation services, as follows:

- a) Mobile assistance services – for patients who are difficult to treat or refuse to visit medical structures, but accept treatment or for covering various psycho-social needs, requiring the presence of certain therapeutic team members at the location.
- b) Rehabilitation programmes. According to the local conditions, each Mental Health Center offers specialized rehabilitation services, such as vocational rehabilitation programmes, leisure time spending programmes, counselling programmes for patients and families.

Art. 5

- (1) The basis of the care system is represented by a functional unit formed by the therapeutic team and the structures within which it carries out its activity, serving a well defined community.

- (2) The therapeutic team includes psychiatrists, psychologists, social assistants, psychiatry medical assistants and other personnel categories necessary according to the activities carried out and the specific nature of the sector. The team is lead by a specialized psychiatrist or a head consultant psychiatrist.

Art. 6

- (1) The minimum personnel necessary for the operation of a Mental Health Center includes:
- 1 psychiatrist (employed full time)
 - 5 psychiatry social workers
 - 2 clinical psychologists
 - 2 social workers
 - 1 occupational therapist
- (2) The minimum structure and equipment of a Mental Health Center are stipulated in the Annex representing a part of this Order.

Art.7

- (1) The services offered and their share are established based on the principle of care continuity and flexibility which can allow the best adaptation to the needs of the population.
- (2) The team's head physician proposes service programmes adapted to the peculiarities of the served area and the target population' needs.

Art. 8

- (1) The Mental Health Center is financed based on a contract with the health insurance Fund for the medical services contracted and deducted by the Insurance Funds, as well as from the state budget by means of the health programmes, local budget and other sources, according to the law.
- (2) The income and expenditure budget of the Mental Health Center represents an integral part of the hospital budget and is drawn up under the conditions of the law; the different income and expenditure budget sheet of the Mental Health Center is elaborated, approved and carried out by the latter's management and execution structures.

Art. 9

The Directorates from within the Ministry of Health, the public health directorates, hospitals and mental health centres will observe the provisions of this order.

Art. 10

On this order's enforcement date, the provisions from the Minister of Health Order no. 86 from 1974, regarding mental health laboratories, are abrogated

Art. 11

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MINISTER,

EUGEN NICOLAESCU

ANNEX**Minimum structure of the space for a Mental Health Center**

1. 2-4 individual offices
2. 1 office meant for group psycho-therapy (for 15 - 20 persons)
3. 1 reception hallway
4. 1 rehabilitation activities office (for 10 - 15 persons)
5. 2 toilets

Minimum items of furniture

1. 2-4 desks
2. 30 chairs
3. 4 armchairs
4. Reception table

Equipment

1. 1 computer (with DVD-ROM) with soft licences
2. Internet connection
3. 1 printer
4. 1 copy machine
5. 1 TV
6. 5 writing boards
7. 1 clip board
8. 1 fax machine
9. 5 telephone sets
10. 1 mini-telephone exchange
11. 1 heating station (where necessary).