



Mental Health & Addiction Services for Older People

MHSOP FACT SHEET

Lakes DHB MHSOP, 1121 Rangiorua Street, Rotorua, 3010

Lakes DHB MHSOP Private Bag 3023, Rotorua, 3046

☎ 07-343 7718

☎ 07-349 7929

✉ MHSOPRT@lakesdhb.govt.nz

MHSOP Vision

“Empower Older People to Maintain Dignity and Value within their Whanau and Community”

Service Provision

We are a multi-disciplinary team. Our service offers assessment and treatment for people:

- Aged 65 years and older living in our community with suspected significant **mental illness** – presenting in later life.
- Aged 65 years and older, with **dementia**, who present with clinically significant challenging **behaviour and/or psychological symptoms**. Exceptions will be made on a case by case basis for people under the age of 65, with a focus on people who identify as Maori or Pacific Islander.

We provide predominately a community based service. We have two speciality beds for the Elderly on the Acute Psychiatric Inpatient Unit, Te Whare Oranga Tangata Whakaue. It may sometimes be necessary to utilise the **Mental Health Act (MHA)** to facilitate an admission. It is advisable to discuss use of the MHA with the Duty Psychiatrist or Acute Response Team, ART.

Please send all new referrals via Best Practice eReferral

Or email the MHSOP Referral Triage: MHSOPRT@lakesdhb.govt.nz

Our Multidisciplinary Team currently includes:

- Consultant Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Psychiatric Registrar
- Community Mental Health Nurses
- Social Worker
- Occupational Therapists
- Liaison with Maori Mental Health Specialists
- Administrative Support Person

Complementary Services that may be better suited for some patients' needs

- **Dementia – without BPSD:**
Please refer to:
Geriatricians, Rehabilitation Unit
Rotorua Hospital
Ph: **07 3481199**
- **Mild to Moderate Mental illness,**
e.g. anxiety or depression, refer to:
PRIMHIS Primary Mental Health Intervention Service
Email: PRIMHIS@lakesdhb.govt.nz
OR LinkPeople: Lakes@LinkPeople.co.nz
- **Substance Abuse or Addiction**
We provide treatment for addiction, but a complementary referral may be of benefit:
Te Utuhina Manaakitanga Trust
1154 Hinemoa Street, **Rotorua**
Ph: **07 3483598**
- **arc Counselling services,**
129 Spa road, **Taupo**
Ph: **07 377 1132**

Referral Information

The following information expedites triaging of new referrals and may rule out possible underlying causes:

- Reason for referral, including significance of clinical presentation and risk factors (e.g. Unsafe driving; Unsafe wandering; Elder abuse, neglect or exploitation; Risk of Assault or Suicide)
- Consent to treatment (by EPOA if appointed / discussion with family if appropriate)
- Diagnostic & Treatment history of mental illness or cognitive impairment
- List of current medication
- Results of recent urine or blood tests: *FBC, U/E, LFT, TSH, Calcium, B12/folate, Glucose, HbA1c, (fasting) Lipids, Electrolyte & Creatinine*
- Baseline metabolic screening: *BP, Weight, Height and Girth (if possible)*
- Any previous or current cognitive testing (GPCOG or other)
- Results of ECG if done / indicated
- Any relevant physical and neurological examinations

Comprehensive information regarding diagnosing and treatment of dementia can be found on the Dementia Clinical Pathway on Health Pathways: <https://midland.communityhealthpathways.org/>

We are happy to provide advice or information, please call us or email us – details as above.

In the event of a Mental Health Crisis, contact ART:

Acute Response Team on **0800 166 167**