



Department
of Health

Designs for better mental health

Competition for artwork for the new Mental Health Act Code of Practice

The Department of Health invites entries for our competition for artwork for the new Mental Health Act Code of Practice.

We particularly welcome entries from individuals who have been service users of mental health services.

A £1000 prize will be awarded for the artist/s of the winning design.

Competition deadline: 12noon Friday 26 September

Competition information

- This competition is to find a design for the new Code of Practice to the Mental Health Act and related material.
- The Mental Health Act 1983 is the law under which people can be detained in a mental health hospital and once discharged may continue to be treated under a 'Community treatment order' (CTO). The Code of Practice gives guidance to service users, families, carers and professionals to understand the Mental Health Act and their roles, rights and responsibilities.
- The Department of Health has drafted changes to the Mental Health Act Code of Practice to make it more up-to-date and protect patients' rights better. We are consulting on this revised Code until 12 September 2014 and intend for the new Code to come into force in April 2015.
- We want to improve awareness and understanding of what the Code says through a range of new materials in different formats. We need a common design to work across the Code itself and other materials. The successful design will need to work in both hard copy and electronic formats.
- We know that art and art therapy can be an important part of recovery, allowing you to express your feelings, often without words. We particularly encourage you to enter if you are using or have used art or art therapy for your mental wellbeing or as part of your treatment.
- Entries will be considered by a panel consisting of service users and carers from the Department's Expert Reference Group on the Mental Health Act Code of Practice and senior members of the Department and Mind.
- Entries will be considered on both their aesthetic qualities and their usability in materials as the successful design will be a key part of the branding for the full range of materials. There is no preferred style, colour or technique that entrants should use. The decision of the competition panel will be final. We will not be able to give feedback on entries and there will be no appeal for unsuccessful entries.

- The successful artist will be credited in the Code of Practice and related material and invited to participate in events/meetings/publicity to promote the launch of the Code, unless they advise us that they wish to remain anonymous. Expenses and travel costs will be paid to support this. By entering the successful artist is agreeing to be contacted in this way by the Department of Health. The individual's contact details will not be shared with third parties unless by agreement with the individual/group.

Entry requirements and information

- **All entries should be submitted by 12noon on Friday 26 September entitled MHA Code Artwork Competition by email to mentalhealthcode@dh.gsi.gov.uk or by post to MHA Artwork Competition, Mental Health Act Code Review Team, Rm 313A, Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS.** Entries received after this or in alternative formats will not be considered.
- Your artwork:
 - Can be by an individual or group of people working together
 - Must be A4 sized or able to be scaled to this size
 - Can be in digital or hard copy but must be able to be used in both formats
- Please include with your artwork:
 - Your name
 - If it is by a group please say so and give a main contact
 - Your contact information (address, phone, email)
 - If you wish, please say something about the artwork and, where relevant, your experience of mental health problems. **We particularly welcome entries from current or recent mental health service users, including people who have been detained or treated under the Mental Health Act, so please make sure to let us know if this applies to you.**
- By submitting an entry you agree that your proposed design can be used as the front cover of the new Code of Practice and on other materials, including the new web portal, in slices/segments throughout the Code of other materials and in hard and electronic copy. This does not need to be a new piece of artwork done specifically for the competition but you, the entrant, need to have the rights to the design and permission for it to be used. Submitting an entry confirms that you have these.
- You can submit a maximum of two possible designs. Any further entries will not be considered.
- If it is agreed to incorporate two designs the prize will be shared between the two winners.

Contact information and to submit entries

For more information please contact the Mental Health Act Code Review Team:

- By email: mentalhealthcode@dh.gsi.gov.uk
- By phone: 0207 210 5420
- By post: Mental Health Act Code Review Team, Rm 313A, Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NS

Further details of the consultation on the Code of Practice are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-mental-health-act-1983-code-of-practice>.