HPC3 Advise on the fitness of individuals for police interview

OVERVIEW

Note: This would be carried out following any physical or mental health assessments of the individual.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. how to obtain background information about the individual and their circumstances
2. how physical or mental conditions may be worsened to a significant degree by an interview e.g.
   a. due to delays in obtaining treatment
   b. due to the stress of the interview
3. how the nature of an interview could affect the detainee
4. relevant assessment tools e.g. questionnaires
5. when it is necessary for an appropriate adult to be present at an interview
6. people who may act as an appropriate adult, in accordance with national legislation and codes of practice
7. factors that may result in an individual being more likely to provide an unreliable confession e.g.
   a. physical and mental health conditions
   b. substance use
   c. personality traits
8. physical illness which may have possible effects on an individuals cognition
9. concerns an individual may have about their physical health which may increase their vulnerability e.g. concerns about the availability of medication or medical
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

1. obtain all available background information on the circumstances of the arrest including the condition of the individual on arrest and whilst in custody
2. communicate with the individual and with police officers/staff clearly and in ways that promote understanding
3. consider the outcomes of any physical and mental health examinations of the individual
4. assess whether conducting an interview could worsen any existing physical illness or mental health condition
5. assess the risk of unreliability for subsequent court proceedings of anything said or done by the detained individual due to their physical or mental state
6. assess how the functional ability of the individual may affect the capacity of the detained individual to function properly in the interview situation
7. advise on the need for an appropriate adult to be present where the interview is of a child, young person or an individual who appears to be mentally disordered, mentally vulnerable or with learning difficulties
   a. whether the individual will require or be amenable to treatment
   b. how long it may take for likely improvement to take effect
8. recognise the limitations of your own knowledge, experience and authority, and refer to specialists where required
9. provide a written record of any advice or recommendations made to the police using the relevant documentation
10. keep accurate, legible and complete contemporaneous records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines.
This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health.

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB2 Assessment and care planning to meet people's health and wellbeing needs