

# Community Treatment Order

Bloorview MacMillan

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## What is a Community Treatment Order?



A community treatment order (CTO) is an order that a physician signs that allows a person to have community-based treatment or care and supervision instead of being in the hospital. It is less restrictive than being in hospital.

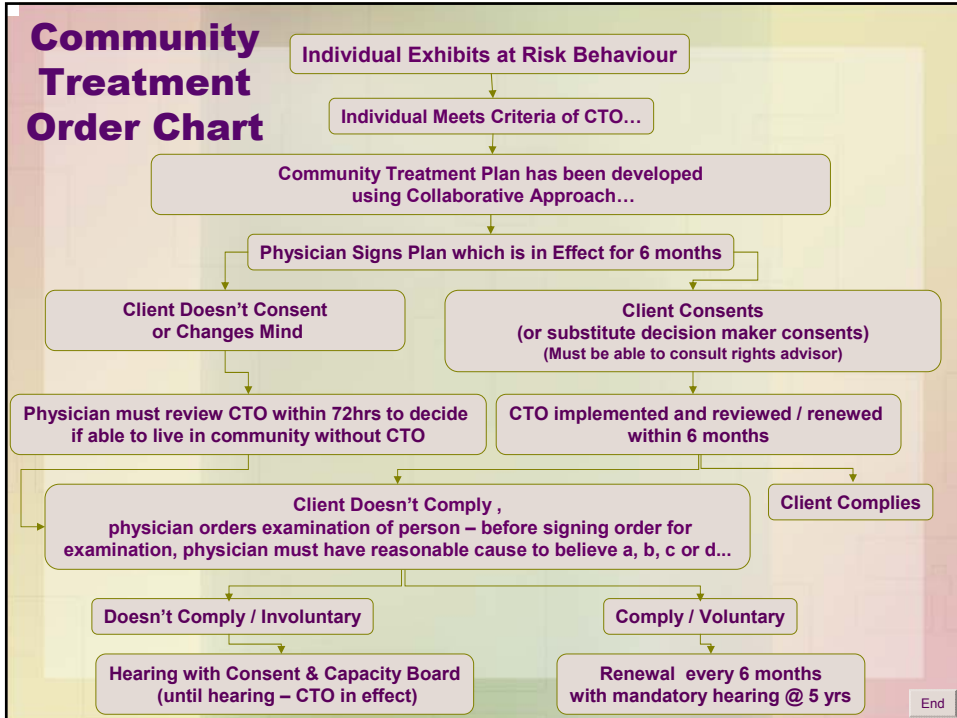
### Who can sign a community treatment order?

A community treatment order can be signed or renewed by a qualified physician.

### Can everyone with a serious mental illness be on a CTO?

**No.** A CTO can only be signed or renewed for someone with serious mental illness when the conditions in the **Mental Health Act** are met.

## Community Treatment Order Chart



## Criteria for the Community Treatment Order

- A. in the last three years, the person has been an inpatient in a psychiatric facility two times or more or for a total of at least 30 days, or has been on a CTO; and,
- B. a community treatment plan has been developed; and,

C. the physician has examined the person in the 72 hours before the plan is entered into and believes:

- ❑ because of his or her mental illness, the person needs continuing treatment or care and continuing supervision, if he or she lives in the community, and,
- ❑ if the person isn't an inpatient in a psychiatric facility, that he or she meets the conditions for assessment, and,
- ❑ if the person doesn't get continuing treatment or care and continuing supervision while living in the community, he or she is likely, because of mental illness, to cause serious bodily harm to himself or herself or to someone else, or suffer substantial mental or physical deterioration or serious physical impairment, and,
- ❑ the person is able to comply with the plan, and
- ❑ the treatment or care and supervision are available in the community; and,

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D. the physician has consulted with the health practitioners or other persons proposed to be named in the plan; and,

E. the physician is satisfied that the person subject to the order and his or her substitute decision-maker (if any) have consulted with a rights adviser and been told about their legal rights; and,

F. the person or his or her substitute consents to the plan.

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## What is a Community Treatment Plan?

A community treatment plan is made by the person who will be on the CTO, or his/her substitute decision-maker (if any), the physician signing the CTO and anyone who will be providing treatment or care and supervision of the person under the plan.

The Plan must include at least the following:

- ❑ a plan of treatment for the person subject to the CTO;
- ❑ any conditions relating to the treatment or care and supervision;
- ❑ the obligations of the person subject to the CTO;
- ❑ the obligations of the substitute decision-maker, if any;
- ❑ the name of the physician who has agreed to accept responsibility for the general supervision and management of the CTO, if this is different from the physician who issued the CTO; and,
- ❑ the names of all persons or organizations who have agreed to provide services under the plan and their obligations under the plan.

A CTO cannot be signed before the plan is made.



## What if a person doesn't comply with a CTO?

If a physician believes that a person is not complying with a CTO, the physician may sign an order for the examination of the person.

Before signing the order for examination, the physician must have reasonable cause to believe that:

- A. because of mental illness, the person needs continuing treatment or care and continuing supervision while living in the community, and
- B. if the person isn't an inpatient in a psychiatric facility, that he or she meets the conditions for assessment, and
- C. if the person doesn't get continuing treatment or care and continuing supervision, he or she is likely, because of his or her mental illness, to cause serious bodily harm to himself or herself or someone else, or suffer substantial mental or physical deterioration or serious physical impairment; and

D. Reasonable efforts have been made to:

- ❑ find the person and,
- ❑ tell the person or his or her substitute that the person hasn't complied with the CTO, and,
- ❑ tell the person or his or her substitute that the physician might issue an order for examination and what that means, and,
- ❑ help the person comply with the CTO.

An order for examination gives the police power to take the person named in the order to the physician who signed the CTO or to a physician authorized to act in place of the physician who signed the CTO.



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