

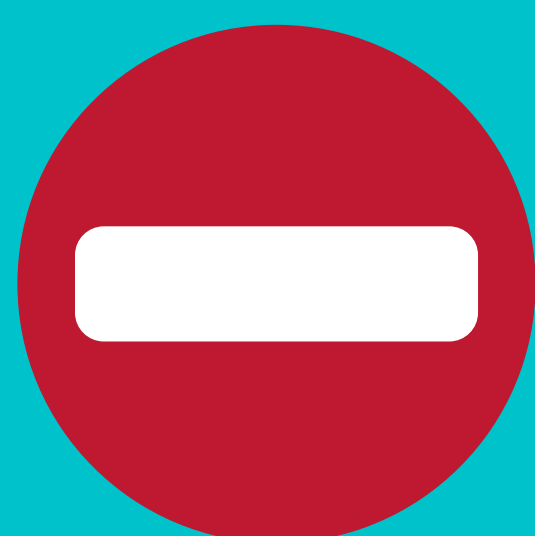
Changes to Mental Health Tribunals in response to COVID-19

Usually a tribunal is heard by 3 panel members (a legal member, a doctor and a lay member)
Now tribunals can be heard by a single legal member only



Some people won't be physically present at the tribunal but will join by phone

The legal member can get advice from a doctor or lay member before or during the tribunal by phone. If they do this, they should tell you during the tribunal the advice they received



Sometimes an appropriate member of the tribunal must examine you to form an opinion of your mental condition. This is known as a 'Pre-Hearing Assessment (PHE)'. No PHE's will take place during the coronavirus pandemic, due to the health risks they pose

Sometimes, hospital managers must refer you to a tribunal after 6 months have passed. If this is the case and you are on a Community Treatment Order (CTO) the tribunal might be a paper one. A paper tribunal means that the legal member, or panel, will make a decision on the paper evidence that they have



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