












MENTAL ILLNESS

The specialty holds a Charter Mark for its services. It provides a service to the population of North and West Belfast on an inpatient, day attendance and outpatient basis. There are 55 in patient beds on the Mater hospital site and day attendances (a nurse led service) take place at Alexandra Gardens Day Hospital. Services offered at Alexandra Gardens Day Hospital include: cognitive behavioural therapy, one-to-one counselling, group work, relaxation classes and occupational therapy. Specialist practice includes clozaril, lithium and eye movement decentral (EMDR) clinics. Ongoing research projects within the Psychiatry department include: ASSERT, GEMINI, INSIGHT and SEPTEMBER. The ASSERT project is directed at tackling suicide in North Belfast and Greater Shankill. It is dedicated to providing support and education to these communities, in particular young men. The GEMINI project, a joint project with the University of Virginia, is aimed at locating and isolating the genetic indicators of schizophrenia. The INSIGHT project aims to improve outlooks for people with schizophrenia by increasing awareness of schizophrenia among people with the illness, their families, friends and carers. The programme aims to reduce relapse rates and improve the overall outlook of people with schizophrenia. The SEPTEMBER project is a joint project between the Mater Hospital and the University of Ulster. It examines medication compliance in the elderly depressed population of North and West Belfast, as non-compliance can often precipitate a patient's readmission to hospital.

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LOCATION OF MENTAL ILLNESS SERVICES

Inpatient services	Psychiatry building	Levels 2-4
Outpatient services	Psychiatry building	Level 1
Day attendance	Alexandra Gardens Day Hospital, 603 Antrim Road	