

## **Inspection visit to SA Ahtme Haigla**

On 15 and 17 August 2015, advisers to the Chancellor of Justice inspected SA Ahtme Haigla, where in-patient psychiatric services, including involuntary treatment, are provided. A healthcare expert was involved in the inspection visit. The Chancellor of Justice had last inspected SA Ahtme Haigla on 30 January 2013.

The hospital is licensed to provide in-patient psychiatric services for a total of 90 bed places; however, according to the hospital, services are actually being provided for 75 bed places.

On the first day of the inspection visit (Saturday, 15 August 2015), the advisers to the Chancellor of Justice and the healthcare expert participating in the inspection visit went on a tour of the building and interviewed the physician and one of the nurses on duty. There were a total of 49 patients staying at the hospital. Of those, 26 patients were on Level 2, in the acute care ward, subject to involuntary treatment (hereinafter: IT). During the inspection visit, there were 12 IT patients and no restrained patients at the hospital. On the second day of the inspection visit (Monday, 17 August 2015), the advisers to the Chancellor of Justice interviewed IT patients, examined documents (medical histories of restrained patients and the restraining measures register) and interviewed the head of the establishment.

The inspection visit revealed the following deficiencies in the operations of Ahtme Hospital:

- the observation room and the restraining conditions do not meet the legal requirements;
- long-term restraining is not reported to the Health Board;
- patients' privacy is not assured at all times;
- patients' human dignity is at risk;
- patients may not be provided with the option of being able to communicate with a physician in Estonian.