

Inspection visit to Wismari Hospital

On 29 September 2016, the advisers of the Chancellor of Justice inspected Wismari Hospital in order to assess whether the Chancellor's recommendations made in 2015 had been complied with.

The hospital provides inpatient psychiatric services in 25 beds in two wards. During the inspection visit, 12 patients were undergoing inpatient treatment. No patient was undergoing treatment against their will. During daytime, the hospital has one doctor, two nurses and two caretakers on duty. During nighttime, usually one doctor, one nurse and one caretaker.

During the visit, the advisers of the Chancellor of Justice visited hospital rooms and talked to the staff and patients of the hospital. Heightened attention was paid to the security and compliance of restraining in the observation room and to documenting the implementation of the restraining measures.

The Chancellor of Justice stands by the opinion expressed in the summaries of the visits made in [2014](#) and in [2015](#) regarding the security and compliance of restraining exercised in the observation room. To protect the life and health of the restrained patients, the Chancellor of Justice asks the hospital to pay special attention to the following:

- that the patient is not in other patients' sight while being restrained;
- that the other patients do not have access to restrained patients (incl. not use other beds of the observation room at the time when a mechanically restrained a person is in the observation room and keep the door leading from the observation room to the corridor locked while the restrained patient is being observed);
- consider finding a secure and compliant solution for a situation whereby multiple patients might need restraining.

The hospital has started following the Chancellor of Justice's recommendation to inform the Health Board of longer-term restraining cases. However, in several cases the informing did not take place within the next working day, as required by the law, and the Health Board was informed of a long-term restraining case weeks later. The Chancellor of Justice asks the hospital to:

- document the implementation of restraining measures in accordance with the established requirements and in such a manner that it would be possible to assess all essential aspects related to restraining upon verifying if the restraining is grounded (among other things, by indicating more accurately, what constituted the dangerousness of the restrained person to the person themselves or to others; describing more accurately the situation preceding restraining and the unsuitability of alternative measures);
- in the event of restraining that lasts for over 24 hours, inform the Health Board not later than on the next working day following the termination of the implementation of the restraining measure.

The Chancellor of Justice also asks that the procedure arising from the [Mental Health Act](#) be monitored upon provision of persons with psychiatric care and that a decision of involuntary treatment be drawn up if it is decided substantively. If the grounds for involuntary treatment do not exist, the patient must not be prohibited to leave the hospital.