

Information Sharing in Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams

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Ten Things to Remember

1. There are different types of MDTs, including systemic and case review MDTs. These two types are not mutually exclusive. One MDT, for example, may have a larger group that functions as a systemic MDT and a smaller subcommittee that functions as a case review MDT.
2. MDTs may include a variety of individuals and organizations. They are often governed by different confidentiality laws. North Carolina does not have a state law that authorizes MDTs to share identifiable, case-specific information. The confidentiality laws governing each MDT member must be considered and applied.
3. Systemic MDTs do not discuss identifiable, case-specific information. Therefore, broad membership and communication is encouraged. Systemic MDTs may discuss hypothetical cases for training purposes.
4. Case review MDTs do discuss identifiable, case-specific information. Therefore, only those individuals or organizations allowed by law to share information may participate in case review MDTs.
5. An adult with decisional capacity or the adult's personal representative may consent to information sharing among the members of a case review MDT.

If no consent...

6. DSS will typically always be a member of a case review MDT. DSS may share identifiable information with law enforcement officials, health care providers, and service providers in certain situations (see Information Sharing Tool).
7. Law enforcement may be a member of a case review MDT. Law enforcement may share identifiable information with DSS, health care providers, and service providers who are involved with a particular case.

8. Health care providers, such as primary care physicians or hospital social workers, may be involved with a case review MDT. They may share identifiable information with DSS and law enforcement officials in certain situations (see Information Sharing Tool). They may share information with other service providers who are involved with the individual's care. Note that different rules apply to providers subject to the federal substance abuse confidentiality regulation.

9. An information sharing agreement can be useful for clarifying expectations among the members of a case review MDT. An agreement cannot, however, expand the scope of authorized information sharing beyond that allowed by law.

10. Information disclosed in a case review MDT may need to be used and disclosed by MDT members outside of the MDT in order to carry out their official duties. For example, if a law enforcement officer learns information in the course of a case review that relates to a pending criminal investigation, the officer will need to follow up on the information.