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## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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### How can policies and laws affect people with schizophrenia?

Mental health laws in many countries limit involuntary hospital admissions to patients who meet an obligatory dangerousness criterion (ODC) for risk to themselves or others. This policy approach is in use throughout Australia, the USA, and some areas of Canada and Europe. Alternative criteria implemented in the UK and other parts of Canada and Europe allow involuntary treatment in the absence of dangerousness, on the grounds of an assessed need for treatment if the patient is deemed unable to give consent.

### What is the evidence regarding policy and laws relevant to schizophrenia?

Moderate to high quality evidence indicates that a requirement for patients to satisfy an obligatory 'dangerousness' criterion to allow compulsory treatment may be associated with a longer duration of untreated psychosis.

For more information see the technical table



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*NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.*

*Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.*

*Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.*

*While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.*

### HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at [neura.edu.au/donate](http://neura.edu.au/donate).