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Klinik für forensische
Psychiatrie Haina



Step by Step – Different levels of security in the Haina Vitos Forensic Psychiatric Hospital

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Outline

- Law Issues
- The Haina Vitos Forensic Psychiatric Hospital
- The Problem
- Solution
- Clinical Practice
- Summary

Law Issues (1)

In order to get into a forensic hospital you need a hospital order sentence

Requirements for a hospital order sentence

- Severe criminal act with criminal intent
- ‘Irresponsibility’ or ‘severely diminished responsibility’ during the criminal act due to a mental disorder
- High risk of re-offending due to the mental disorder

Law Issues (2)

Characteristics of a hospital order sentence:

- Unlimited detention
- Annual review by the court
- Discharge criterion:

‘It can be expected that no further offences will be committed’

- ‘Treatability’ is not an issue !!

Law Issues (3)

Consequences of the law

If your risk of re-offending remains high you stay in the hospital → **Maybe for life**

German supreme court (2004)

Based on the constitution'the state has the obligation to develop concepts for long-term patients to give them a constant chance to regain their freedom...'

Law Issues (4)

Consequence of law and court decision:

- The forensic mental health system has to deal with long-stay patients

The Haina Vitos Forensic Psychiatric Hospital

The Haina Vitos Forensic Psychiatric Hospital is located in the state of Hessen – right in the center of Germany

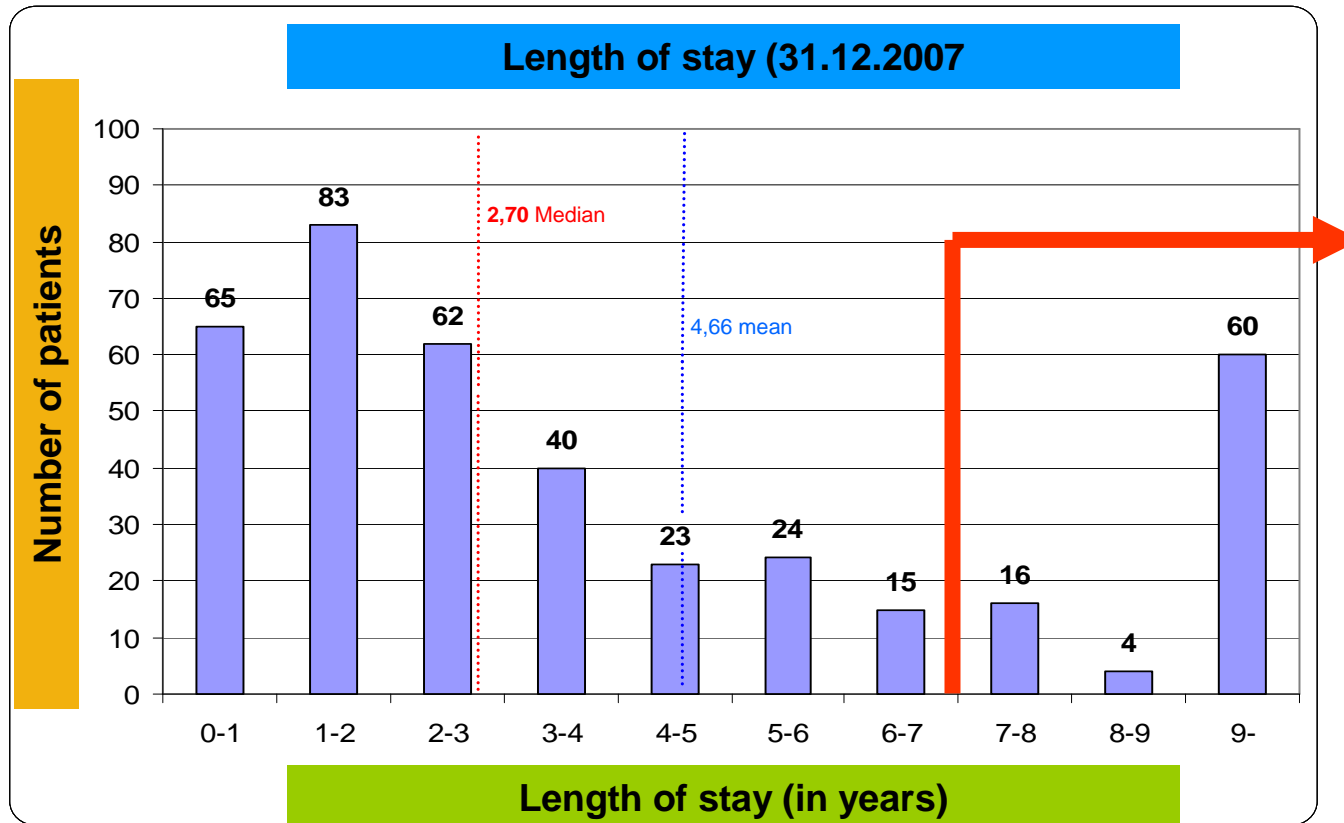
It is the only Forensic Psychiatric Hospital in of the state serving a catchment area of approximately 6.000.000

=> All mentally disordered offenders who receive hospital orders in Hessen are treated in the Haina Vitos Forensic Psychiatric Hospital

The Haina Vitos Forensic Psychiatric Hospital

- 425 beds
- 23 specialized treatment wards
 - Among them: 3 long-stay wards
- State wide operating aftercare clinic
 - ~ 350 patients on probation

The Problem



Solution (1)

Give long-term patients:

- a level of quality of life as high as possible
- an environment where they are no longer bothered with (frustrating) treatment attempts
- a perspective to gain more freedom during their stay in the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital

Solution (2)

Break down the long way to (still possible) discharge into small steps:

- Provide a system with a large number of different levels of security
- Provide wards with different levels of security
- Provide the highest level of freedom possible
- Provide freedom in small steps

Solution (3)

Advantages of a stepwise approach:

- Tool for testing the patient's
 - Compliance
 - Social skills
 - Self-control
 - Stability
- Tool that provides public safety
 - everything is prepared and tried out carefully
- Each step strengthens the patients' motivation and compliance
 - Powerful reward system

Clinical Practice in the Haina Forensic Psychiatric Hospital: The 'Step system' (presented in a very summarised form)

- 0** → seclusion
- 1** → daily walk in the inner yard under control of ward staff
- 2a** → daily walk in the yard without control; walk in the hospital park (one staff per patient)
- 2b** → walk in the hospital park (one staff per 3 patients)
- 3** → allowed to leave the hospital grounds with staff (one per 3 patients)
- 4** → walk in the hospital park without staff
- 5** → walk in the direct surroundings of the hospital park

Clinical Practice: The 'step system' (continued)

- 6 → walk in Haina / Giessen without staff accompany
- 7 → day trips to surrounding towns and villages without staff
- 8 → outside treatment time free to do whatever wanted
(‘Youth hostel rules’, be back by 10 pm)
- 9 → discharge ‘vacation’ (up to 6 months)
- 10 → on conditional discharge
→ free but probation order: obligatory forensic aftercare

Summary

The Haina practice including the 'Step-System'

- makes more freedom and more or less open conditions achievable
- is no dead-end-road for long-stay patients
- offers the opportunity to take part in social activities
- makes a higher level of quality of life possible
- makes specially tailored conditions for long-stay patients possible and their life more humane
- keeps a strong eye on public safety

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Thank you