



PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS



INVOLUNTARY PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION CENTER ADMISSIONS

THE INFORMATION ON THIS DOCUMENT APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE PERSONS BEING ADMITTED INVOLUNTARILY. If the person is voluntary, the references to hold the person do not apply, use the voluntary process.

Admission criteria for Seriously Mentally Ill ("SMI") patients

Hospitals are expected to admit SMI patients who are:

- ✓ "Danger to Self"
- ✓ "Danger to Others" or
- ✓ "Persistently and Acutely Disabled" (See the card on PAD) or
- ✓ "Gravely disabled"

SMI patients who exhibit signs of illicit substance use CANNOT be turned away because of such use until they have had a thorough psychiatric examination.



Process time by statute- in practice-

Family members, or anyone, can bring an SMI patient to any urgent psychiatric center (aka screening agencies; see backside of card) to file a petition for Court Ordered Evaluation or to amend an existing Court Ordered Treatment (COT).

In a crisis, HIPAA (Health Information Portability and Accountability Act), a complicated piece of federal legislation designed to protect a person's health information, does NOT prohibit providers from discussing health care information with family members and caregivers, even those who are not guardians or those for whom patients have not signed a Release of Information. And, even in non-emergent situations, providers are always allowed to listen to the concerns of caregivers

Things that are not true!!

- ✗ The incident must have occurred within 24 hrs.
- ✗ Ineligible if drugs or alcohol are detected.
- ✗ You came to the wrong location/door.
- ✗ If the person is not DTO or DTS they cannot be petitioned.
- ✗ If the person is PAD, you must call the PAD phone number rather than filing an in-person petition.

Bring or provide (ASAP) a list of medications; insist on communication, a doctor-to-doctor conference, between the in-patient clinical team and or psychiatrist and the out-patient psychiatrist and or provider evaluator.

Guardians and family members can file grievances and appeals with the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA), on any matters pertaining to hospitals' rejecting admissions of SMI patients.

Keep a written journal of all activities and information, including dates, names of admissions personnel, their supervisors, what was asked, what was said, etc. and copy and paste relevant emails and email responses into your journal, all of which will be vitally important in case of any grievances or appeals. Take pictures of any evidence (picture of holes in the walls, broken furniture, flooded apartment) if possible. (Link to the Excel document)

Definitions of DTO, DTS, PAD (Glossary - Association for the Chronically Mentally Ill (ACMI) (acmionline.com))

Danger to Self (DTS) means that as a result of a mental disorder, the person is exhibiting behavior that constitutes a danger of inflicting serious physical harm on himself or herself and that the behavior is so severe that there is an expectation that the threat will be carried out without immediate hospitalization. **Danger to Others (DTO)** means threatening to hurt others with a creditable plan to do so.

DTS: Danger to Self- means behavior that, as a result of a mental disorder:

(i) Constitutes a danger of inflicting serious physical harm on oneself, including attempted suicide or the serious threat thereof, if the threat is such that, when considered in the light of its context and in light of the individual's previous acts, it is substantially supportive of an expectation that the threat will be carried out.

(ii) Without hospitalization will result in serious physical harm or serious illness to the person.

DTO- Danger to Other ([hyperlink to glossary](#)) - means that the judgment of a person who has a mental disorder is so impaired that the person is unable to understand the person's need for treatment and as a result of the person's mental disorder the person's continued behavior can reasonably be expected, on the basis of competent medical opinion, to result in serious physical harm.

PAD: Persistently or Acutely Disabled, Persistent or acute disability- means a severe mental disorder that meets all the following criteria:

(a) If not treated has a substantial probability of causing the person to suffer or continue to suffer severe and abnormal mental, emotional or physical harm that significantly impairs judgment, reason, behavior or capacity to recognize reality.

(b) Substantially impairs the person's capacity to make an informed decision regarding treatment, and this impairment causes the person to be incapable of understanding and expressing an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of accepting treatment and understanding and expressing an understanding of the alternatives to the particular treatment offered after the advantages, disadvantages and alternatives are explained to that person.

(c) Has a reasonable prospect of being treatable by outpatient, inpatient or combined inpatient and outpatient treatment.

Gravely Disabled is defined as when a person's mental disorder prevents him from providing for his own basic life-sustaining needs, such as an inability to provide for his own food, clothing, or shelter.[2] Grave disability can be the basis for civil commitment if there are no existing resources for such provision.



Psychiatric urgent care centers:

- **Connections AZ Urgent Psychiatric Care Center (UPC)**
1201 S. 7th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-416-7600
- **RI International Recovery Response Center (RRC)**
11361 N. 99th Ave. Peoria, AZ 85345
602-650-1212, press 2
- **Community Bridges Community Psychiatric Emergency Center (CPEC)**
358 E. Javelina Ave. Mesa, AZ 85210
1-877-931-9142
- **Observation Services for Children and Adolescents (OSCA)**
St. Luke's Behavioral Health Center
1800 E. Van Buren St. Phoenix, AZ 85006
602-251-8535

RHBA- Mercy Care Grievance and Appeals
If you prefer to file your grievance in writing,
please send your complaint to:

Mercy Care Grievance System Department
4500 E. Cotton Center Blvd.
Phoenix, AZ 85040
602-586-1719 or 1-866-386-5794
Fax: 602-351-2300