

Tulsa-Area Medical Clearance Protocol of Acute Psychiatric Patients

Mental Health Treatment Facilities (MHTF)

If individual arrives assisted by Law Enforcement Officers:

- Law enforcement will transport directly to the MHTF unless there is medical concern is present
- **Medical Clearance:**
 - MHTFs shall only request medical clearance on patients with specific medical stability concerns after an appropriate EMTALA defined evaluation
 - Request for medical clearance shall not be denied/refused
 - All relevant information should be requested by phone, not fax, and a request can be made that medical documentation arrive when the patient is transferred
 - MHTF must accept the patient if deemed “medically cleared” by the Emergency Department (ED) clinician
 - If the MHTF wishes to decline the patient, a phone call must be made to the ED clinician between medical providers and not LADCs or LCSWs

If individual arrives independently (not assisted by Law Enforcement Officers):

- MHTF must provide EMTALA defined evaluation
- **Higher Level of Care:** If it is determined the patient needs a higher level of care, there should be a specific medical concern and a call should be placed to the ED clinician to alert them
 - MHTF will not request blanket “medical clearance” in order to transfer between hospitals
 - If the ED clinician states the patient is “medically stable/clear”, this shall be accepted; if there is a disagreement, a phone call should be made between medical clinicians and not LADCs or LCSWs
 - All relevant information should be requested by phone, not fax
- **Inpatient Hospitalization:** MHTF shall provide an immediate answers on bed availability to an ED and an answer on acceptance shall be provided within 30 minutes of the first call

MHTFs will not require the ED Clinician to:

- Run standard psychological tests
- Obtain Blood Alcohol Levels
- Obtain Urine Drug Screen