

Tulsa-Area Medical Clearance Protocol of Acute Psychiatric Patients

Emergency Departments

If individual arrives assisted by Law Enforcement Officers:

- ED clinician **should not** deny/refuse the request for a medical clearance evaluation
- ED clinician **will not** place medically unstable patients in patrol cars to transfer between hospitals
- If an ED clinician states the patient is “medically cleared”, the Mental Health Treatment Facility (MHTF) will automatically accept the transfer; if there is a disagreement a phone call will be conducted between medical providers

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

- Receive patient history and administer physical exam, including vital signs, account as to the nature and extent of psychiatric complaint, and focused physical exam (i.e. toxidrome and substance intoxication)
- Perform lab testing based off the clinical indication of the specific patient
- **Do not:**
 - Run standard set of labs (psych labs)
 - Routinely obtain Blood Alcohol Levels unless there is a clinical indication for the specific patient; Blood Alcohol Levels are clinically irrelevant for clearance to a psychiatric hospital
 - Routinely obtain Urine Drug Screens unless there is a clinical indication for the specific patient; if a Urine Drug Screen is performed, it should not be a determinant of need for psychiatric placement
- **Alcohol Ingestion:** Assess patient ability to ambulate safely and conversate if suspected alcohol ingestion; if patient is unable to ambulate, conversate, or are in a stupor/coma, they are inappropriate for transfer to a MHTF
- **Inpatient Hospitalization:** If clinician determines the patient requires inpatient hospitalization, a phone call will be placed to the MHTF; there should be an immediate answer on bed availability and an answer on acceptance should happen in 30 minutes
- **No Additional Workup:** The MHTF will not ask the ED for anything further without a call from the on-call physician
- **Discharge/Transfer:** Complete medical records should be transported with the patient, not just discharge instructions