

# PSYCHIATRIC HEALTH FACILITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL, DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Section:	LEGAL		
Subject:	COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TREATMENT		
Form Ref #:		Feb. 1998 - Effective	
Search Item: L-3.0		May 2006 - Revised	
Director's Approval:	_____	Date:	_____
Assistant Director's Approval:	_____	Date:	_____

<b>POLICY:</b>	<p>Patients may be maintained in hospitals other than the PHF while on a legal hold. When a patient is on hold in another facility, our obligation for evaluation and treatment of the psychiatric disorder is not diminished. The following will be observed:</p>
<b>PROCEDURE:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Placement of a 72 hour hold PHF admission to a community care facility must be authorized by the attending psychiatrist. A 5150 hold is not to be used to enforce medical care/treatment if the patient is refusing care. If there are questions regarding a medical transfer, consult the treating psychiatrist.</li> <li>B. If a patient is admitted to a community treating facility, the 5150 should specify the PHF as the place of evaluation and treatment, and a copy of the 5150 and Crisis Contact Sheet will be made available to the Medical Director and the Patient's Rights Advocate as soon as possible.</li> <li>C. All community facility admissions will be evaluated by a psychiatrist on the County staff with 24 hours. A copy of that evaluation/assessment will be forwarded to the Medical Director for review. Psychiatrist assignment to the patient will be made by the Medical Director for continued treatment, discharge planning and aftercare follow-up.</li> <li>D. When medically feasible without the possibility of harm resulting, the patient should be evaluated for transfer back to the PHF unit or, if the patient's medical status warrants higher acuity of nursing care, which is not available at the PHF, the patient will remain at the community facility until medical clearance is appropriately authorized.</li> </ul>

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