

# *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