

### Initiating Psychiatric Admissions

Initiating the psychiatric admissions process is the next step after completing a comprehensive suicide risk assessment and determining the patient is at high risk for suicide.

#### Voluntary Admission Process

If the patient is cooperative, as a physician you can recommend a non-hospital crisis bed or hospitalization. In order for a patient to be voluntarily admitted, the patient must be:

- 16 years old or older
- Diagnosed with a mental disorder that is susceptible to care or treatment
- Able to understand the nature of the request for treatment
- Able to give continuous assent to remain in the facility
- Able to ask for release

Contact the patient's emergency contact to ensure transportation can be arranged to the local hospital or psychiatric crisis facility. A patient can submit a [written voluntary application](#) that is accepted by the hospital.

#### Involuntary Admission

A petition for emergency evaluation can be made after personally examining the patient AND if you have reason to believe that the individual is in psychiatric crisis meets one of the following criterion, including but not limited to:

- Suicidal thinking and/or behavior,
- Acute psychotic symptoms,
- Sudden change in mental status,
- Homicidal thinking and/or behavior,
- Violence

A physician can file a [petition for emergency evaluation](#) for possible involuntary hospitalization without needing a judge's approval. A petitioner must give the petition to a law enforcement officer. If the petitioner cannot go in person to a law enforcement office, an officer may be able to go to the petitioner's office. Maryland law allows involuntary admission to a hospital when a person:

- Has a mental disorder
- Needs inpatient care or treatment
- Presents a danger to the life or safety of the person or others
- Is unable or unwilling to be admitted voluntarily
- There is no available less restrictive form of intervention that is consistent with their welfare and safety

If you cannot file a petition for emergency evaluation, contact the local mobile crisis team. If the situation requires immediate intervention (within two hours), call 911.

| Mobile Crisis Teams               |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Anne Arundel County: 410-768-5522 | Harford County: 1-800-639-8783       |
| Baltimore City: 410-433-5175      | Howard County: 410-531-6677          |
| Baltimore County: 410-931-2214    | Montgomery County: 240-777-4000      |
| Carroll County: 410-952-9552      | Prince George's County: 301-429-2185 |
| Frederick County: 301-662-2255    | Washington County: 301-791-3045      |
| Eastern Shore: 1-888-407-8018     |                                      |