

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 5/28/2019	NUMBER: G-51.6 Page 1 of 2
	Replaces: 5/30/2018	
	Formulated: 10/85 Reviewed: 4/2022	
REFERRAL OF AN INMATE FOR ADMISSION INTO A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY		

PURPOSE: To establish a process for referring inmates for crisis management and possible admission into a Behavioral Health Facility.

POLICY: Inmates may be in need of short-term or extended hospitalization in a Behavioral Health Facility as a result of acute mental illness and/or suicidal/self-injurious behavior.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Mental health staff, medical staff, local ER staff or ranking security staff (on units without 24-hour medical coverage) may refer an inmate for crisis management and evaluation of need for admission to a Behavioral Health Facility or crisis management facility.

- II. Inmates presenting with urgent or emergent needs such as self-injurious behavior, extreme agitation, or decompensation, who cannot be appropriately managed at the assigned unit should be referred to a designated Behavioral Health Facility or crisis management facility. In order to accomplish the transfer, the following steps should be followed:
 - A. Obtain an authorization from a provider, or qualified mental health professional for transfer to crisis management.
 - B. Medical clearance from medical staff either on-site or on-call is required. All inmates must be medically stable prior to transfer to a Behavioral Health Facility.
 - C. Contact the nearest crisis management facility and provide the information requested to the Behavioral Health Facility personnel.
 - D. Notify the facility Warden of both the sending and receiving units; notify the Classification and Records Office (CRO) by e-mail and arrange for transportation of the inmate.
 - E. After hours, the referring staff should contact the on-call psychiatric provider who will determine appropriate treatment and/or transfer as per security protocols.
 - F. Inmates determined to be at risk for suicide or self-injury will be monitored on Constant Direct Observation (CDO) by security staff, per TDCJ policy, until transferred to the accepting Behavioral Health or crisis management facility.

- III. Inmates presenting with acute or chronic mental disorders which are not urgent or emergent in nature, but which may require Behavioral Health Facility treatment, should be referred to the designated Behavioral Health Facility.
 - A. In order to accomplish the transfer, the referring staff should contact the nearest Behavioral Health Facility and provide a summary of the patient's symptoms, reason for referral and the course of treatment to date.
 - B. The receiving staff will notify the sending staff of acceptance for admission. The sending unit will notify the facility Warden and the CRO by e-mail. They will also arrange for the transportation of the patient.

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Reference:

ACA Standard 5-6A4351, Emergency Plan (Mandatory)

ACA Standard 5-6A-4374, Mental Illness and Developmental Disability (Non-Mandatory)