



7.4.3 CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT (CSU) MEDICAL ASSESSMENT

Issue Date: 06/01/2017

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References: California Code of Regulations, Title 9, Section 1840.338 and 1840.348 (b)

Policy Owner: Department of Health Services – Behavioral Health Nursing Supervisor

Director Signature: **Signature on File**

I. Policy Statement

This Policy is to ensure all members receiving Crisis Stabilization services receive a physical health assessment at the appropriate level of care per California Code of Regulations, Title 9, § 1840.338 and 1840.348.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all Qualified Licensed Medical Covered Persons at the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU), which includes all County of Sonoma employees (full-time, part-time, extra help) and all additional persons who are performing services for the Department of Health Services (DHS), with the exception of Community Based Organization (CBO) staff.

III. Definitions

A. **Level of Care:** Is defined as identifying the appropriate evaluation and treatment for members being served, based on medical needs and acuity.

IV. Policy

A. This policy summarizes the procedural guidelines by which the Department of Health Services – Behavioral Health Division (DHS-BHD) assesses a member’s physical health for a Crisis Stabilization service.

- B. For the purpose of this policy, the term *medical assessment* is defined as the assessment of physical health. This policy covers the medical assessment duties of Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN), and Licensed Psychiatric Technicians (LPT).
- C. Per regulation, the CSU will maintain a minimum of one medical staff (RN, LPT, or LVN) on site at all times when members are present, to administer the medical assessment and perform other medical and medication support services.
- D. The CSU will maintain medical backup services for medical emergencies, either on site or by agreement with a general acute care hospital.

V. Procedures

- A. All members receiving services at the CSU require the CSU Nursing Assessment, which is provided onsite at the CSU. The Medical Hospital Assessment is provided at an acute care medical hospital, if needed. Determination of the appropriate level of assessment for each member will be based on medical need.
 - 1. CSU Nursing Assessment
 - a. RNs, LVNs, and LPTs shall complete a CSU Nursing Assessment (in SmartCare) for each member admitted to the CSU. Refer to the *Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) Nursing Assessment Procedures* for guidance on how to complete a nursing assessment.
 - b. Any member requiring a more detailed medical assessment, or having a medical emergency, will be referred to a medical emergency room in an acute care hospital. Refer to *Managing Acute Medical Concerns in the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)* procedure for further details.
 - 2. Medical Hospital Assessment
 - a. A Medical Hospital Assessment refers to a medical screening and evaluation performed by hospital staff in a medical emergency room or on a unit of a medical hospital, such as a general medical unit or an intensive care unit.
 - b. Members who are referred to the CSU from a medical hospital will already possess a Medical Hospital Assessment and medical clearance. However, these members will still be administered a CSU Nursing Assessment upon arrival at the CSU. Any additional medical assessment for members referred to the CSU from medical hospitals will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

VI. SCBH Forms

A. SmartCare Nursing Assessment

B. SmartCare Enter Vitals

VII. Attachments

Attachment #1: Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) Nursing Assessment Procedures

Attachment #2: Managing Acute Medical Concerns in the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)