



Managing Acute Medical Concerns in the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)

Issue Date: 10/2025

Procedure for Policy: 7.4.3 Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) Medical Assessment

Procedures

This procedure applies to CSU medical staff (MD, NP, RN, LVN, LPT). The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that medical concerns are quickly assessed and addressed appropriately. Non-MD medical staff will consult with the physician on duty or on call as needed. All medical concerns, interventions and need for follow up must be documented in the Electronic Health Record (EHR).

1. Medical Concerns that **CAN** be managed by medical staff at the CSU include:
 - a. Uncomplicated UTI that is resolvable with oral antibiotics.
 - b. Basic, non-infected wound care that does not require sterile technique, packing, or postsurgical dressings. No infected wounds.
 - c. Stable asthma that is controlled with a metered dose inhaler (MDI). No nebulizer treatments or O2.
 - d. Stable hypertension (HTN) that is controlled with medications.
 - e. Stable diabetes mellitus where blood glucose is controlled with insulin or oral medications.
 - f. Lice, bed bugs, and scabies.
2. Acute Medical Concerns that **CANNOT** be managed by medical staff at the CSU:
 - a. Acute medical concerns/issues include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Recent untreated trauma/injury that requires diagnostic testing
 - ii. Significant fall which may have resulted in internal bleeding, broken bones, or head injury/concussion
 - iii. Dangerously uncontrolled blood glucose
 - iv. Dangerously uncontrolled blood pressure

- v. Uncontrolled heart rate or rhythm
 - vi. Acute shortness of breath
 - vii. Chest pain
 - viii. Acute abdominal pain
 - ix. Intractable vomiting and/or diarrhea unresponsive to medication provided at CSU
 - x. Seizures
- b. In such cases, medical staff will assess client immediately and arrange for medical treatment and clearance at the Emergency Department (ED) immediately, or as soon as possible, depending on acuity.
3. Medical emergencies that require immediate medical attention to prevent serious bodily harm or death:
- a. Staff will immediately call 911 for any client with sudden loss of consciousness, loss of pulse, severe respiratory distress, grave bodily injury, or any other life-threatening conditions.
 - b. CSU medical staff should immediately assess any other acute medical conditions and determine the level of ambulance response required (911 or regular ambulance service).
4. If a client who has been admitted to CSU needs medical clearance for the purpose of admission to an acute psychiatric hospitalization, the charge nurse on duty should determine the course of action:
- a. If the charge nurse determines that an ED medical clearance is necessary, the client will be sent to the ED.
 - b. If only an EKG is needed for clearance, call Urgent Care to arrange.
5. When it is determined that the client needs to be transferred to the ED, the following steps will be completed by the medical staff member:
- a. Obtain an order for transport and document in Client Orders.
 - b. Specify and document, in the order, the specific medical concerns to be addressed (e.g., chest pain, respiratory concerns), and what testing and exams need to be completed (e.g., CMP, CBC with diff, EKG, drug levels if applicable, Urinalysis (U/A) to rule out UTI, chest X-ray, CT scan, etc.).

- c. Call transport and provide medical information.
- d. When transport arrives, provide copies of Client Orders and, if applicable, legal status documentation.
- e. Call ED and provide the report and the rationale for medical clearance.
- f. Request the ED provide the report and fax results prior to sending the client back to the CSU.
 - i. Based on the ED report, the medical staff will obtain information about changes in the treatment plan, such as additions to the client's medication (e.g., antibiotics), respiratory treatments (e.g., CSU does not have a nebulizer machine or medications that are needed to provide those treatments), wound care, dressing changes, etc.
 - ii. If the ED medical clearance indicates that the client has acute medical needs that cannot be appropriately and safely treated at CSU, the client will not be accepted back at CSU.

SCBH Forms

A. Client Orders

SCBH Attachments

None