

Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) facilities

Overview

An Evaluation and Treatment Facility (E&T) is any facility which can provide directly, or by direct arrangement with other public or private agencies, emergency evaluation and treatment, outpatient care, and timely and appropriate inpatient care to persons suffering from a mental disorder, and which is licensed or certified as such by the Department of Health. The Health Care Authority may certify single beds as temporary evaluation and treatment beds under certain circumstances.

There are 2 types of E&T Facilities:

1. Freestanding E&Ts are licensed as a Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF) and certified by Department of Health for E&T services.
2. Hospital based E&Ts are licensed as hospitals (either a community hospital or psychiatric hospital) and certified by Department of Health as E&Ts.

Services

E&Ts provide acute ambulatory treatment services in a structured setting for individuals whose mental disorder is not responsive to lower-level interventions such as crisis services, outpatient services, crisis stabilization, and residential services. Treatment typically includes a combination of group and individual treatment coupled with medication management in a highly structured setting.

An E&T may provide voluntary treatment, or for persons detained under the individual treatment act, they may provide involuntary treatment.

Level of care varies depending on the acuity of the current symptoms, risk, and needs of the individual.

An initial involuntary length of stay is up to 120 hours, then a court may order up to 14 days of additional treatment.

Statewide bed capacity

As of August 2021, there were 1325 licensed E&T Beds, made up of 389 freestanding beds, 696 community hospital psychiatric beds, and 240 psychiatric hospital beds. There were 28 freestanding E&Ts and 33 hospital-based E&Ts. Note: this number is subject to change as most facilities are private entities that add and decrease beds to fit the treatment of the community and their personal business needs.

Eligibility requirements

Any individual who meets medical necessity for voluntary inpatient treatment or any individual who meets criteria for detention under the ITA due to mental disorder.

Authority

Adults:

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.05
Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-341

Youth:

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.34
Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-341

Budget

Treatment at an E&T is funded through Medicaid, Medicare, and Third-party liability.

Managed Care Organizations (for individuals covered by Medicaid) or Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (for individuals not covered by Medicaid or private insurance) are responsible for costs of short-term treatment at an E&T.

Inpatient treatment services provided at Free Standing E&Ts are considered to be outpatient E&T services as per the Rehabilitation Section of the State Medicaid Plan. Accordingly, inpatient treatment at a Free-Standing E&T cannot be billed as Medicaid Inpatient or Medicare Inpatient. Very few private insurance plans cover Free Standing E&T care.

Oversight

HCA, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. DOH certification and licensure are required.



For more information:

Allison Wedin, Involuntary Treatment Administrator

allison.wedin@hca.wa.gov

Zephyr Forest, SWMS Coordinator

Zephyr.forest@hca.wa.gov

