

Parent-initiated Treatment

Overview

A parent or guardian may bring or authorize the bringing of his or her minor child or youth (13 -17 years old) for examination at:

- An evaluation and treatment facility
- Hospital emergency room
- Approved substance use disorder treatment program
- Withdrawal management (formerly known as detox) facility,
- Inpatient facility licensed under RCW Chapter 70.41, 71.12, or 72.23 operating inpatient psychiatric beds for minors

The parent or guardian can request the professional person examine the minor to determine whether the minor has a mental health disorder and/or a substance use disorder and is in need of inpatient treatment. Minor or youth consent is not required for parent-initiated treatment.

The evaluation should be completed within 24 hours from the time the minor is brought to the facility, unless the professional person determines that the condition of the minor necessitates additional time for evaluation. In no event shall a minor be held longer than seventy-two hours for an evaluation. If the minor is held for treatment, the professional person shall notify the Children's Long Term Inpatient Program (CLIP Administration office) within 24 hours of completing the evaluation and of the date of admission. If in the judgment of an appropriately trained professional, it is determined the minor meets medical necessity to receive inpatient treatment, the minor may be held for treatment. The facility shall limit treatment to that which the professional determines is medically necessary to stabilize the youth's condition until the evaluation has been completed.

Prior to the required review conducted under RCW 71.34.610, the professional person shall notify the


minor of his or her right to petition superior court for release from the facility. No minor receiving inpatient treatment under this section may be discharged from the program based solely on his or her request.

In the event the minor is held for treatment, the facility shall ensure a review of admission and determination of medical necessity is completed between seven and 14 days following the date the minor is brought to the facility. The Health Care Authority shall assure a review is conducted by a physician or other mental health professional who is employed by the Authority, or an agency under contract with the Authority, and who neither has a financial interest in continued inpatient treatment of the minor nor is affiliated with the facility providing the treatment. The Authority may periodically determine and re-determine the medical necessity of treatment for purposes of payment with public funds.

No provider is obligated to provide treatment to a minor under the provisions of this section except that no provider may refuse to treat a minor under the provisions of this section solely on the basis that the minor has not consented to the treatment. No provider may admit a minor to treatment under this section unless it is medically necessary. Minors admitted to inpatient facilities under parent initiated treatment procedures must be released from the facility immediately upon the written request of the minor's parent or guardian.

Eligibility requirements

- Minors 13-17 years old whose parents bring the youth to a treatment agency for evaluation. Minors 12 years old or younger can be admitted under a voluntary basis, Parent Initiated Treatment does not apply to this age group.
- Minor has a mental health disorder and/or substance use disorder that meets medical necessity for inpatient treatment.

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- Agency is capable and willing to complete evaluation and/or provide treatment.

Authority

RCW 71.34.600 (effective April 1, 2018)

2017-19 budget

Inpatient services for minors are considered a covered service under Medicaid and are authorized based on the determination that the minor meets medical necessity criteria to receive inpatient services for a mental health or substance use disorder.

Key partners

Parents, Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs), Health Care Authority (HCAs) Managed Care Entities (MCEs), Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations (BH-ASOs), mental health and substance use disorder inpatient treatment providers and hospitals.

Oversight

Per RCW 71.34.610, the CLIP Administration Office is the Authority's identified state-contracted agency to provide reviews of medical necessity determinations of minors admitted under PIT under 71.34.600.

For More Information

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