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Psychiatric Emergencies and Crises in Primary Care (in Ontario, Canada)



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Sommaire : Is your patient imminently suicidal, homicidal, or at risk of substantial physical impairment due to a mental disorder? Classic situations include your patient is acutely suicidal due to major depression; your patient is suffering from an acute episode of mania or psychosis, and as a result, is at risk of serious harm.

If so, your patient may benefit from an emergency mental health assessment....

Options in Ontario include:

1) Filling out a Form 1 if you have seen your patient within the past 7-days, otherwise
2) Asking the family to consider seeing a Justice of the Peace with their concerns, and/or
3) Calling the local crisis line, mobile crisis or 911 during an acute crisis.

Is Your Patient Able/Willing To Go Voluntarily?

Ideally your patient agrees to voluntarily go to an Emergency Department, in which case you may be able to have your patient brought by family or an ambulance.

If Your Patient Unable/Unwilling To Go Voluntarily?

1. Form 1

- Have you seen your patient within the last 7-days? If so, consider completing a Form 1 (aka Application for Psychiatric Assessment), which allows:
  - An authority (usually police) to bring an individual to an appropriate Schedule 1 facility and
  - Authorizes the detention and assessment of an individual who meets the criteria in the Act in a (schedule 1) psychiatric facility/hospital for up to 72 hours.
- The Form 1 is available online here
  - http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/GetAttachDocs/014-6427-41~1/$File/6427-41_.pdf
- Or here
  - http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/
- For more information about the Form 1 criteria

More...

2. Justice of the Peace

- If you have not seen your patient within the past 7 days (i.e. a Form 1 is not possible), then consider asking family members to contact a Justice of the Peace
- Anyone (usually family members, but can also include physicians) can present themselves to the local Courthouse, and be seen by a Justice of the Peace, who can issue a Form 2, which gives police the authorization to take the individual to a hospital for an assessment
- Here is a list of local Courthouses in Ontario http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/courts/Court_Addresses/

3. Call 911

- If your patient is acutely suicidal, homicidal or psychotic, consider emergency medical services (i.e. 911)

4. Call a Mobile Crisis Line

- Consider speaking to a mobile crisis line for advice about other options and services.

Where to Send your Patient in Ontario

This is the official list of Schedule 1 facilities maintained by the Ministry of Ontario http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/psych/designated.aspx

Note: This is a list of Schedule 1 facilities, which means they have inpatient services, but note that not all have an Emergency Department. If you are looking to send a patient to an Emergency Department, check the hospital before hand to see if it has an Emergency Department.

Location	Name
Ajax	Rouge Valley Health System - Ajax and Pickering Health Centre Site
Barrie	Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre
Bath	Regional Treatment Centre (Ontario) - Millhaven Institution Site
Bath	Regional Treatment Centre (Ontario) – Bath Institution Site
Belleville	Quinte Healthcare Corporation - Belleville General
Brampton	William Osler Health Centre - Brampton Civic Hospital William Osler Health Centre - Brampton Hospital Campus
Brantford	The Brantford General Hospital
Brockville	Brockville General Hospital - Charles Street Site and Garden Street Site.
Brockville	Brockville Mental Health Centre - Member of the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, including the Forensic Treatment Unit
Brockville	St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre, Secure Treatment Unit
Burlington	Joseph Brant Hospital
Cambridge	Cambridge Memorial Hospital
Chatham	The Public General Hospital Society of Chatham
Cornwall	Cornwall General Hospital
Goderich	Alexandra Marine and General Hospital
Guelph	Homewood Health Centre Inc.

Hamilton	Hamilton Health Sciences Corporation - Hamilton General Hospital Site, Chedoke Hospital Site, McMaster University Medical Centre Site, Henderson General Hospital Site
Hamilton	St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton - West 5th Campus Charlton Campus
Kenora	Lake of the Woods District Hospital
Kingston	Kingston General Hospital
Kingston	Providence Care Centre: Mental Health Services Site. (former Kingston Psychiatric Hospital)
Kitchener	Grand River Hospital Corporation - Kitchener-Waterloo Site Grand River Hospital Corporation - Freeport Site
Lindsay	Ross Memorial Hospital
London	St. Joseph's Health Care London, Parkwood Institute, Mental Health Care Building
London	London Health Sciences Centre - University Campus, Victoria Campus
Markham	Markham Stouffville Hospital
Mississauga	Trillium Health Partners - Credit Valley Hospital
Mississauga	Trillium Health Partners - Mississauga Hospital
Newmarket	Southlake Regional Health Centre
North Bay	North Bay Regional Health Centre
Oakville	Halton Healthcare Services Corporation - Oakville - Trafalgar Memorial Hospital Site
Orillia	Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital
Oshawa	Lakeridge Health Corporation - Oshawa Site
Ottawa	Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Ottawa	Hôpital Montfort
Ottawa	Queensway Carleton Hospital
Ottawa	Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre - Member of the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group – Does not have an Emergency Department
Ottawa	Regional Children's Centre Royal Ottawa Hospital, a division of the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group – Does not have an Emergency Department
Ottawa	The Ottawa Hospital - Civic Campus, General Campus
Owen Sound	Grey Bruce Health Services - Owen Sound Site
Penetanguishene	Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care
Peterborough	Peterborough Regional Health Centre - Hospital Drive Site
Richmond Hill	Mackenzie Health

St. Catharines	Niagara Health System - St. Catharines Site
St. Thomas	Southwest Centre for Forensic Mental Health Care, St. Joseph's Health Care London
St. Thomas	St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
Sarnia	Bluewater Health
Sault St. Marie	Sault Area Hospital
Stratford	Stratford General Hospital
Sudbury	North Bay Regional Health Centre (Kirkwood Place)
Sudbury	Hôpital régional de Sudbury Regional Hospital
Thunder Bay	St. Joseph's Care Group, Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital Site
Thunder Bay	Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre
Timmins	Timmins & District Hospital L'Hopital De Timmins et Du District
Toronto	Rouge Valley Health System - Centenary Health Centre Site
Toronto	The Scarborough Hospital - General Division Site, Grace Division Site
Toronto	North York General Hospital - General Division Site
Toronto	Humber River Regional Hospital - Finch Avenue Site, Church Street Site, Keele Street Site
Toronto	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Toronto	Baycrest Hospital
Toronto	William Osler Health Centre - Etobicoke Hospital Campus
Toronto	Sinai Health System - Mount Sinai Hospital Site
Toronto	St. Joseph's Health Centre
Toronto	St. Michael's Hospital - Bond St. Site, Wellesley Central Site
Toronto	Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Toronto	The Toronto East General and Orthopaedic Hospital Inc.
Toronto	University Health Network - Toronto General Hospital Site, Toronto Western Hospital Site, Ontario Cancer Institute / Princess Margaret Hospital Site
Whitby	Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences
Windsor	Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare – Tayfour Campus
Windsor	Windsor Regional Hospital

Woodstock	Woodstock General Hospital

Summary of Involuntary Psychiatric Assessment

- You have assessed the patient, and believe that an emergent Psychiatric Assessment is required, and the patient is not willing to go voluntarily
- Ensure the patient is in a safe place, accompanied by family or staff.
- In some circumstances, if the patient is acutely agitated (e.g. psychotic episode), it may be helpful to give the patient a PRN medication if available.
- Fill out a Form 1.
- Contact the police (or ambulance service) to see if they can accompany your patient to the hospital.
- While awaiting the police
    - Have someone let the Emergency Department triage know about the patient
    - Write a note that includes:
        - Summary of why you believe the patient needs to be seen in hospital
        - Medications and dosages
        - A telephone number where you can be reached at.
- Wait for the police to arrive...

About this Document

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Disclaimer

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