



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Mental Health
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MEMORANDUM

(617) 626-8000
www.mass.gov/dmh

To: DMH Licensed Facilities & Interested Parties

From: Janet Ross, RN, MS, Assistant Commissioner for Clinical and Professional Services/
Director of Licensing

Date: November 16, 2020

Re: DMH Licensing Bulletin #20-04 – **Revised** – COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance -
Admission and Expedited Psychiatric Inpatient Admissions (EPIA)

Attached please find a revised DMH Licensing Bulletin #20-04 – COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance - Admission and Expedited Psychiatric Inpatient Admissions (EPIA). Note that the guidance has not changed with regard to general admissions and the No Reject Policy. The change has been made in the time frame for EPIA referrals

Effective immediately:

- a. EDs, ESPs, and Insurance Carriers will escalate to DMH any unplaced ED boarders waiting psychiatric inpatient level of care **at the 60 hour mark of their ED visit.**
- b. If at any point after arrival of a behavioral health patient to an ED and the ED, ESP or Insurance Carrier know this patient will require DMH assistance for placement, **escalation to DMH can proceed prior to 60 hours.**
- c. Escalation to DMH for assistance includes all behavioral health patients waiting in EDs for inpatient placement no matter what insurance they have (all commercially insured, uninsured, out of state insurance etc.).
- d. **The use of MABHA to track and monitor ED Boarders is still required for the publically insured patient.** All ED/ESPs are expected to enter all behavioral health ED Boarders with managed and/or unmanaged public insurance coverage (Medicare, Duals, Medicaid Fee for Service, Health Safety Net, and Medicaid ACO/MCO) and some uninsured who are still waiting psychiatric inpatient placement **at the 24 hour mark.** This allows for optimal advocacy within the State Agencies and Managed Care entities involved on behalf of those boarding.

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to the DMH Licensing Division at 617-626-8117 or by email to Teresa.J.Reynolds@mass.gov