

SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH SYSTEM
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES

DATE: November 15, 1990

BHRS POLICY: 90-09

SUBJECT: 5150 Designated Facilities

AUTHORITY: California Welfare and Institutions Code – Section 5150

AMENDED: June 28, 2017; Technical Edits January 23, 2018

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to describe Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS) oversight of 5150 designated facilities (hereafter “designated facilities”) and the process for designating facilities. Only facilities that have been designated by this procedure may detain people on a 5150, 72 hour hold.

DEFINITIONS:

Designated Facility –

A facility that has entered into an agreement on behalf of the facility and its staff with the Claims Administrator, the Designated Facility Review Team and the County Board of Supervisors to render covered health services for specific diseases or conditions. A Designated Facility may or may not be located in our geographic area.

Designated Facility Review Team-

To determine the addition of a new designated facility in the county and to ensure the quality of care, the BHRS Director has established a Designated Facility Review Team. The team consists of the BHRS Medical Director as Chairperson, the Quality Management Manager, the Director of Psychiatric Emergency Services, the Administrator of Patients’ Rights and the Director of the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs.

The team reviews each designated facility annually. The review includes the treatment milieu of the facility, discharge procedures and plans, patients’ rights procedures, medication monitoring, and quality of care issues. In addition, the annual review gives the facility up-to-date information and makes any recommendations about treatment programs. It includes questions and dialogue about particular issues that may come up during the year, and formulates plans for improving any situation which needs attention. A protocol for the review is sent to each designated facility prior to the team’s visit.

I. How to Become a Designated Facility

All designated facilities are licensed by the State of California according to current law and regulation prior to applying to be a Designated Facility with San Mateo County. Facilities will not admit any individual on a 72-hour hold prior to receiving approval as a Designated Facility by the Board of Supervisors and the Review Team.

New facilities must present their request to the Designated Facility Review Team. After their deliberations, the Review Team will forward their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Once approved by the Board of Supervisors, BHRS will be informed and the Quality Management department updates this policy.

If an individual is seeking treatment at a facility that is not designated, the individual may be offered voluntary treatment or outpatient services as deemed appropriate.

II. Current Designated Facilities

The three facilities below are currently authorized by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to provide psychiatric evaluation and treatment for individuals detained on 72-hour holds:

San Mateo County Medical Center
Mills-Peninsula Hospital
Seton Hospital

III. How to initiate a 72-hour hold:

Policy 93-07: 72 hour hold/5150 Policy and Procedures

IV. Who can write a 72-hour hold:

Policy 97-05: 72-Hour Holds – Authorization to Write. This policy has information on relevant training.

Approved: _____
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