
PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION - 5150 TRANSPORTS

1. **GENERAL INFORMATION:** Any patient who has been (or will be) placed on a 5150 hold for psychiatric evaluation shall be transported according to this policy
2. **MEDICAL CLEARANCE CRITERIA:**
 - 2.1 Patients **"in extremis"** (those with a potential life-threatening illness or injury) should be transported to the closest most appropriate receiving hospital for the medical needs of the patient
 - 2.2 For all other patients, to determine if medical clearance is required, answer the following questions:
 - ▶ Is there a medical or traumatic reason why this patient should not be transported to an emergency psychiatric facility?
 - ▶ Is the patient unconscious or unresponsive?
 - ▶ Is the patient pale, sweaty, dizzy, or showing signs of shock?
 - ▶ Does the patient have chest pain?
 - ▶ Does the patient have abdominal pain?
 - ▶ Does the patient have significant bleeding from trauma?
 - ▶ Is the patient significantly intoxicated or overdosed on drugs and unable to ambulate?
 - ▶ Do you suspect the patient may have taken an overdose of medication?
 - ▶ Is the patient > 65 years old showing an abrupt change in behavior or cognition?
3. **DESTINATION:**
 - 3.1 **Medical Clearance:** If the answer to **ANY** question in # 2.2 is **"YES"**, the patient requires medical clearance and should be transported as follows:
 - 3.1.1 **Adolescents** (age 12 through 17) - Closest most appropriate Alameda County receiving hospital
 - 3.1.2 **Adults** - Closest most appropriate Alameda County receiving hospital
 - 3.1.3 **Children** (age 11 and under) - Children's Hospital, Oakland
 - 3.2 **Psychiatric Evaluation:** If the answer to **ALL** questions in # 2.2 is **"NO"**, the patient does not require medical clearance and should be transported to one of the following emergency psychiatric facilities:
 - 3.2.1 **Adolescents** (age 12 through 17) – Willow Rock Center, San Leandro. Notify Willow Rock en route at 895-5502
 - 3.2.2 **Adults** – John George Pavilion, San Leandro
 - 3.2.3 **Children** (age 11 and under) - Children's Hospital
 - 3.3 **Note: Ambulance Diversion** - If a hospital is on ambulance diversion, 5150 patients requiring medical clearance should be diverted to the next closest facility unless the patient has a life threatening medical condition or meets any of the exceptions listed in the Ambulance Diversion Policy [page v](#)