

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

Transmittal #15-29

TO: All District of Columbia Hospitals, Certified Core Service Agencies and
Community Partners

FROM: Claudia Schlosberg, J.D. 
Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director
Department of Health Care Finance

Barbara J. Bazron 
Senior Deputy
Department of Behavioral Health

DATE: August 18, 2015

SUBJECT: In-Patient Emergency Admissions for Psychiatric Treatment

This Transmittal is to remind you that the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration (MEPD) project officially ended on June 30, 2015. As we noted in a prior memorandum dated April 27, 2015, (copy attached), CMS informed DHCF that the MEPD would have to end in May due to the limited amount of funds available. DHCF calculated that funding only existed for twelve (12) admissions for the remainder of the demonstration project. DBH and DHCF informed the Psychiatric Institute of Washington (PIW) and the community hospitals that April 30, 2015 would be the last day MEPD referrals to PIW would be accepted.

As noted in the April 27, 2015 memorandum, the care of individuals who require involuntary treatment remains the same. Contact the Access Helpline at 1-888-793-4357 for authorization and, if necessary, transfer to another community hospital. Individuals in acute psychiatric crisis who voluntarily seek treatment will be assessed and treated at a community hospital of their choosing as was the process before the MEPD project.

If you have any questions regarding referrals of adult Medicaid patients to PIW or the MEPD project, please feel free to contact Lisa Bullock at 202-671-3105 or email at lisa.bullock@dc.gov.

Attachment

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



April 27, 2015

Dear District of Columbia Community Hospitals, Certified Core Service Agencies, and Community Partners:

RE: Notice of the April 30 End of Referrals to the Psychiatric Institute of Washington through the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration (MEPD) Project

We write to inform you that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has alerted us that funding for the Medicaid Emergency Psychiatric Demonstration project will end sooner than planned. Therefore, no referrals for Medicaid-eligible patients to the Psychiatric Institute of Washington (PIW) from community hospitals will be accepted, and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) will not authorize admissions, after this Thursday, April 30, 2015. As you know the three year demonstration project is scheduled to end in two months on June 30, 2015. However, we just recently received notice from CMS that funding will be depleted sooner than expected.

Please note that the care of individuals who require involuntary treatment remains the same. Contact the Access Helpline at 1-888-793-4357 for authorization and, if necessary, transfer to a another community hospital. Individuals in acute psychiatric crisis who voluntarily seek treatment will be assessed and treated at a community hospital of their choosing as was the process before the MEPD Project.

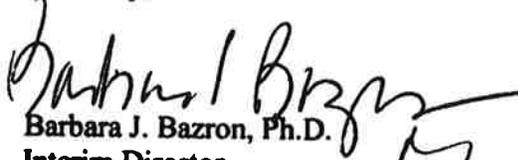
We are grateful that the District was chosen to participate in the MEPD Project which waived the restriction on federal funding for inpatient treatment of eligible individuals in acute psychiatric crisis at an Institute for Mental Disease. This waiver provided federal funds that helped support the care of 553 individuals since 2012.

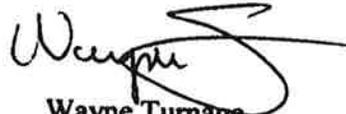
We also want to thank you for your participation. We hope that this project will be renewed, but at this time, we have no information on when, or if, that will happen. We will keep you informed of any developments. Also, CMS has engaged an outside evaluator for the project and we look forward to the findings.

MEPD Conclusion
April 27, 2015
Page 2 of 2

Again, we appreciate your participation in the MEPD Project and regret the short notice of this change. If you have any questions, please contact the MEPD Project lead coordinators listed below.

Sincerely,


Barbara J. Bazron, Ph.D.
Interim Director
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