

Medical Necessity Criteria

Inpatient Services

Inpatient Mental Health Services – High-Intensity

Acute, **High-Intensity Inpatient Services** include psychiatric services of a higher level of intensity than can be provided by a general psychiatric inpatient psychiatric unit. This service provides a level of security beyond the capacity of a general psychiatric inpatient unit to assure the safety of the Member, other patients, and staff. In addition to the usual 24-hour skilled nursing care, daily medical care, structured treatment milieu, multidisciplinary assessments, and multimodal interventions, this service provides single rooms, limited census, enhanced staffing, and increased capacity for observation and intervention by staff specifically trained to treat and contain atypical aggressive, assaultive, and dangerous behavior occurring in the context of an acute psychiatric presentation. The goal of this specialized service is acute stabilization and treatment of the Member's presenting condition, including dangerous behavior, so that the Member can transition to a general inpatient psychiatric unit or another less-intensive level of care.

Acute, High-Intensity Inpatient Services would not be authorized exclusively in response to general psychiatric inpatient bed availability.

Criteria

Admission Criteria

*In addition to the criteria listed for general inpatient mental health admission, **the following criterion** is necessary for admission:*

1. The Member presents a current threat of harm to self or others which is not likely to be safely managed on a general psychiatric unit as evidenced by:
 - a. The Member consistently requires a level of close monitoring or intervention by staff beyond 1:1 observation and the usual capacity of a general inpatient unit to maintain safety.
 - b. The Member's treatment requires staff with specific training and skills to treat and contain atypical aggressive, assaultive behavior beyond the abilities of typical general inpatient unit staff.
 - c. The Member's treatment and maintenance of safety require a highly structured clinical program and environment including single rooms, limited census, enhanced staffing, and increased observation.

Psychosocial, Occupational, and Cultural and Linguistic Factors

These factors may change the risk assessment and should be considered when making level-of-care decisions.

At least one of the following criteria (2-5) must be met as evidence of danger to self or others requiring more intensive observation and intervention:

2. The Member has an established history of significant treatment-resistant assaultive behavior to self and/or others.
3. The Member has recent history of behaviors that were not successfully or safely managed on a general psychiatric unit.
4. The Member is actively engaged in significant dangerous behavior which has not responded to usual interventions at a less-intensive level of care.
5. The Member has a significant history of dangerous sexualized behavior including being a

registered Level III Sex Offender or person designated as a Sexually Dangerous Person.

Exclusion Criteria

*In addition to the exclusion criteria for general inpatient admission, **any** of the following criteria is sufficient for exclusion from this level of care:*

1. The Member can be safely maintained and effectively treated at a less-intensive level of care.
2. The primary problem is not psychiatric. It is social, legal, or medical problem without a concurrent major psychiatric episode meeting criteria for this level of care, or admission is being used as an alternative to incarceration, the juvenile justice system, or for respite or housing.
3. The Member has a medical condition that warrants a medical/surgical setting for treatment, regardless of the psychiatric presentation.
4. Medical co-morbidities are unable to be safely managed in this specialty setting.
5. The Member has behavioral dyscontrol in the context of traumatic brain injury, intellectual disability, pervasive developmental disorder, dementia, or other medical condition without indication of acute DSM-5-TR diagnosis.
6. Current charges including murder, aggravated assault, and rape, and eligibility for treatment in a specialized forensic program.

Continued Stay Criteria

All of the continued stay criteria for general inpatient mental health services must be met as well as the **following criterion**:

1. The Member's condition continues to meet admission criteria for High-Intensity Inpatient Mental Health Services requiring specialized milieu and increased observation, staffing levels, and acute treatment interventions have not been exhausted, and no other less-intensive level of care would be adequate.

Discharge Criteria

Any of the following criteria (1-3) is sufficient for discharge from this level of care:

1. The Member no longer meets continuing stay criteria for High-Intensity Inpatient Mental Health Services requiring specialized milieu and increased observation and staffing levels but does meet admission criteria for general Inpatient Mental Health Services or another level of care, either more- or less-intensive, where the Member can be safely treated.
2. Treatment plan goals and objectives have been substantially met and/or a safe, continuing care program can be arranged and deployed at a less-intensive level of care.
3. The Member is not making progress toward treatment goals, and there is no reasonable expectation of progress at this level of care. The need for a high intensity of services is the result of a chronic condition, and the Member requires transfer to a long-term care setting for ongoing treatment.