

Title: **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**

Purpose of Guidelines: To assure expedient and appropriate care for the Inpatient Behavioral Health patients who are experiencing a medical emergency. Treatment of patients from the Inpatient Behavioral Health Units to the Emergency Department should be a rare occurrence necessitated only by degree of injuries sustained or medical complexities for which necessary medical or nursing care is beyond the scope available.

Responsibility: Trained Inpatient Behavioral Health staff

Procedure:

When the Attending Psychiatric/Consulting Physician requests treatment in the Emergency Department, the following protocol will be followed:

1. Lucas County Emergency Medical Services (911) should be called in cases of potentially serious or life-threatening illnesses and/or injuries.
 - a. Basic life support and/or first aid procedures will be provided by available health care personnel in the event an individual needs care until the issue is resolved or until the arrival of EMS.
2. Local Emergency Transportation companies (Community EMS) can be utilized as well for non-emergent transports.
3. The patient may be transferred by wheelchair through the tunnel if appropriate and approved by the Physician.
 - A) Two CPR certified staff members will accompany the patient from Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit to Emergency Department.
4. The charge nurse will notify the Nursing Supervisor (383-1320).
5. The charge nurse will notify the Emergency Department Charge Nurse (383-1663) regarding the transfer and a brief report will be given at this time.
6. The charge nurse from Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit will notify the patient's parent/guardian/representative regarding the purpose of the transfer to the Emergency Department.
7. In the event the patient is admitted to the medical floor, the patient will need to be discharged from Inpatient Behavioral Health Unit and a safety net (incident report) will need to be completed for a change of condition. Rationale and necessity will be indicated in Safety Net for medical admission.

Reviewed by: Tamara Cerrone, BSN, RN, Director Inpatient Behavioral Health

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Revised:

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