

NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Guideline: Elements of the
psychiatric/psychosocial
evaluations



Policy Number Superseded: Combined
guidelines Elements of the psychiatric/psycho-
social evaluation and Elements of the psycho-
social evaluation – February 2026

Effective Date:
February 2026

Initial Effective Date:
February 2026

Responsibility: All trained inpatient
behavioral health staff

Purpose of Guideline: To provide guidance and
outline the elements of the psychiatric and
psychosocial evaluations.

Procedure:

Psychiatric Evaluation

- (A) Psychiatric evaluations will be completed and placed in the patient's chart within 24 hours of admission.
- (B) Chief complaint is the reason for admission as stated by patients or significant others or both.
- (C) History of present illness.
 - (1) Onset of psychiatric symptoms/behaviors.
 - (2) Circumstances leading to current admission.
 - (3) List of current medications or noted if none.
 - (4) Evidence of failure or inability to benefit from a less intensive outpatient program.
- (D) Past psychiatric history.
 - (1) Past problems, treatments.
 - (2) History of physical/sexual abuse/perpetration issues. Identify if abused or perpetrator.

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- (3) History of ETOH/drug use.
- (4) History of family psychiatric illness.

- (E) Mental status examination.
 - (1) Attitude/behavior.
 - (2) Affect.
 - (3) Intellectual functioning.
 - (4) Memory functioning.
 - (5) Orientation.
 - (6) Thought process (includes hallucinations, delusions, and self-harm/harm to others).
 - (7) Suicide risk.
 - (8) Judgment/insight.
 - (9) Functional capacity to perform ADLs.

- (F) Inventory of patient's strengths, assets (intrinsic) and liabilities/weaknesses (intrinsic) in descriptive (not interpretive) fashion.

- (G) Medical history.

- (H) Diagnostic impression.
 - (1) Principal diagnosis.
 - (2) Contributing diagnoses (including functional or sensory impairments).
 - (3) Medical co-occurring illnesses.
 - (4) Psychosocial stressors.

- (I) Plan of treatment.

- (J) Estimated LOS.

- (K) Prognosis.

- (L) Discharge criteria.

- (M) Preliminary continuing care plan.

Psychosocial Evaluation

- (A) Psycho-social assessments will be completed within 24 hours of admission and will include at a minimum the required elements defined in this guideline.

- (B) Presenting problem, including suicide risk factors.

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- (C) Childhood to present history (including sensory, developmental or physical impairments, accommodations and limitations).
- (D) Current living situation/environment safety.
- (E) Legal history.
- (F) Work history.
- (G) Educational history.
- (H) Military history.
- (I) Significant medical/psychiatric history.
- (J) Sexual history and orientation.
- (K) History of hospitalization.
- (L) Suicidal/homicidal risk.
- (M) History of abuse/neglect (sexual, physical, emotional), other trauma history. Identify abused or perpetrator.
- (N) History of substance use/abuse.
- (O) Financial status.
- (P) Spiritual issues, including religion, spiritual orientation, beliefs and values that may impact treatment.
- (Q) Cultural factors related to current problem that could impact treatment.
- (R) Family/support systems are identified by interviews with family members or others as appropriate.
- (S) Patient strengths and liabilities.
- (T) Patient family/guardian/caregiver educational needs and barriers.
- (U) Discharge planning needs/alternatives identified.
- (V) Diagnostic summary ends in problem statement with focus of treatment.

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(W) Date, time, and signature with credentials upon completion.

Approved by:
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Review/Revision Completed by:
Psychiatry - Inpatient Administration

Initial effective date:
February 2026

Review/Revision Date:
February 2026 (*combined guidelines Elements of the psychiatric/psycho-social evaluation at Elements of the psycho-social evaluation*)

Next review date:
February 2029