

**SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL  
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

DATE ADOPTED: 4/83  
DATES REVIEWED: 12/92, 9/95, 1/99, 3/02, 7/04, 11/07  
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**PROCEDURE TITLE: PSYCHIATRIC - PSYCHIATRIC  
CONSULTATION FOR ED PATIENTS**

**Purpose:** To ensure timely and appropriate psychiatric consultation for ED patients.

**Supportive Data:**

Psychiatric consultations may occur within ED treatment areas or ED patients may be discharged to Psychiatric Emergency Service [PES]. All patients who are admitted to the ED on 5150 W&I involuntary 72 hour holds must receive a consultation from PES physician to release the hold prior to discharge.

**Goals:**

1. To limit use and duration of 5150 and physical restraints for suicidal patients in the ED
2. To expedite the determination of 5150 status and restraint requirements for patients who present without a 5150, but who have made a suicidal gesture or have suicidal ideation
3. To decrease the duration of time between medical clearance and PES evaluation.

**General:**

1. ED Resident (after consultation with ED attending) or ED Attending calls PES (☎x8125) to request Psychiatric Consultation for:
  - a. Patients who arrive on a 5150 and are interviewable
  - b. Patients with suicidal ideation attempt or gesture.
  - c. Patients on a 5150 who have been medically cleared
  
2. Psychiatric Consult will see ED patients within one hour of request
  - a. For patients who arrive in the ED on 5150 the Psychiatric consult will:
    1. Continue 5150 and request patient brought to PES when medically clear
    2. Continue 5150 and request repeat call to PES when medically clear
    3. Remove 5150
  
  - b. For patients on a 5150 and medically cleared the Psychiatric Consult will either remove the 5150 or request the patient be transferred to PES
  - c. For patients with suicidal ideation, attempts or gesture the Psychiatric Consult will:
    1. Place the patient on a 5150 and request the patient brought to PES when medically cleared
    2. Place the patient on a 5150 and request repeat call to PES when medically cleared
    3. Psychiatrically clear the patient

**Special Circumstances:**

1. When the ED is on Diversion, patients medically cleared on a 5150 are taken to PES after the ED attending calls PES (☎x8125)
2. The Psychiatric Consult should see patients on a 5150 for which the Psychiatric consult has not requested transfer to PES when medically cleared again as soon as the patient is interviewable.
3. Patients on a 5150 must be escorted to PES by law enforcement personnel and a registered nurse
4. Patients awaiting Psychiatric Consultation or on a 5150 must be kept under constant observation and if that is not possible, in restraints
5. Patients should be seen by the Psychiatric Consultation within one hour of the request

**Documentation:**

1. ED Resident or Attending documents the time of Psychiatric Consultant request.
2. Psychiatric Consultant documents SFGH consultation form
3. If patients are placed on a 5150 the Psychiatric Consultant leaves a copy of the 5150 in the ED medical record.

**References:**

SFGH Medical Center Policy # 16.12: PATIENTS PLACED ON IVOLUNTARY HOLDS IN NON-PSYCHIATRIC SETTINGS

File Name: Psychcon.doc