

The Art of the
Consult

Psychiatric
Consultation in the
Medical/Surgical
Setting

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No conflicts of interest for this
presentation

American Board of Medical Specialties – ABMS

Boards of Certification – 24

Approved Specialties – 38

Approved Subspecialties – 89

**ONLY ONE WITH FOCUS ON THE PRACTICE OF CONSULTATION
WITHIN THE SPECIALTY – CONSULTATION-LIAISON PSYCHIATRY**

Why Psychiatric Consultation?

- Most medical and surgical services provide consultation to primary care, Emergency Medicine, and inpatient medical services
- However, virtually no discipline except Psychiatry has a subspecialty focused on providing consultation to other specialties
- Why?
 - Minimal psychiatric training/experience in medical school/residencies
 - Psychiatry has traditionally removed itself from the 'House of Medicine', resulting in decreased exposure to psychiatric patients for many other providers
 - Discomfort with psychiatric symptoms and patients
- Despite specialty expertise, far less than half of general hospitals have a dedicated psychiatric consultation service*
 - Typically provided by psychiatrist who cover inpatient psychiatric unit or outpatient psychiatrists in community with "hospital privileges"

* Ellison et al, Mayo Clin Proc. May 2022

Psychiatric Consultation Assessment: Useful Considerations

- Consult usually called to answer specific question; assessment should be focused on answering that question
- Acute vs. chronic onset of symptoms
- Greater attention to relevant medical history and ROS
- Less focus on early developmental hx
- Consider impact of medical/surgical illness and hospitalization, especially for patients with hx of PTSD, i.e., important to take a Trauma Informed Care approach to consultations

Consultation patient groups

- In general, psychiatric consultants are evaluating patients in one of five (or a combination of) categories :
 - Psychiatric presentation of organic disease (secondary mania in hyperthyroidism)
 - Psychiatric complications of organic disease (depressed mood with Keppra)
 - Psychiatric reactions to organic disease (demoralization with CA illness)
 - Somatic presentation of psychiatric disorders (PNES)
 - Somatic Symptom disorders

Tenets of Effective Consultation

- Know who you are serving; medical team, hospital system, patient

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- **Swift response**

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- **Discussion vs. Interrogation**

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- **Who am I?**

Who am I?

- Inform the patient of who you are
- Identify any other staff (residents, students, social workers, etc) with you
- Briefly describe your general role on the medical floor or ED, particularly your primary function as a consultant to their doctor

Tenets of Effective Consultation

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- Discussion vs. Interrogation
- Who am I?
- **Did they know?**

Ask if they were told

- Check with the patient to see if they were informed that consultation was requested
- Only informed 50 % of time, compared to 80 % of other consultants*
- Increased patient value for consult if informed*

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- Discussion vs. Interrogation
- Who am I?
- Did they know?
- **Why am I here?**

Why am I here?

- After informing the patient of why you have come, ask the patient if they know why their doctors wanted a psychiatrist to see them
- Helps get sense of patient's understanding of the situation and the medical team's concerns
- Can allow the patient to initially set the agenda, which may diminish resistance
- Ultimately, do give the patient your perception of why you were consulted to help them

What do you need?

- End with asking patient what they believe they need
- Emphasizes to patient that their needs and opinions are valued
- Allows assessment of patient insight
- Patient most likely to accept treatment that they feel will help them

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- Who am I?
- Did they know?
- Why am I here?
- **Do something for the patient**

Do Something for the Patient

- Being in the hospital is difficult at best
- Patients often unable to maintain dignity
- Do something the patient can appreciate
 - Get a blanket, glass of water, etc.
 - Help change to more comfortable position
 - Communicate info to nurse or attending
- Can break ice with patient, especially if resistant to consultation

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- Discussion vs. Interrogation
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- Did they know?
- Why am I here?
- Do something for the patient
- **Sit down!**

Take A Seat

- Sit down as soon as you can
- Get to eye level with the patient; raise head of bed if necessary/possible
- Neutralizes status differences
- Helps diminish anger and agitation
- Changes interview from interrogation to conversation
- Decreases appearance of being hurried

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- **Additional sources of information can be critical**

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- Additional sources of information can be critical
- **Communication is the key to effective consultation**

Consultation Note

- Be Concise
 - Likelihood of note being read by consultee is inversely related to length of note
- Only use relevant information
 - Medical hx only as relates to consult
 - Relevant laboratories
 - Appropriate mental status exam
- Only document what you would want your neighbor to see
- Impression and Recommendation are most important sections

Barriers to effective consultation

- Patients are often severely ill/debilitated, negatively impacting ability to obtain information from patient
- Lack of privacy in hospital/ED rooms
- Patient availability (tests/procedures/other providers)
- Hard to duplicate office setting
- Patient may not “want” to be evaluated

Make Your Service Valuable

Make Your Service Valuable

- Involvement with hospital committees
 - Ethics
 - Safety Committee
 - P&T

Make Your Service Valuable

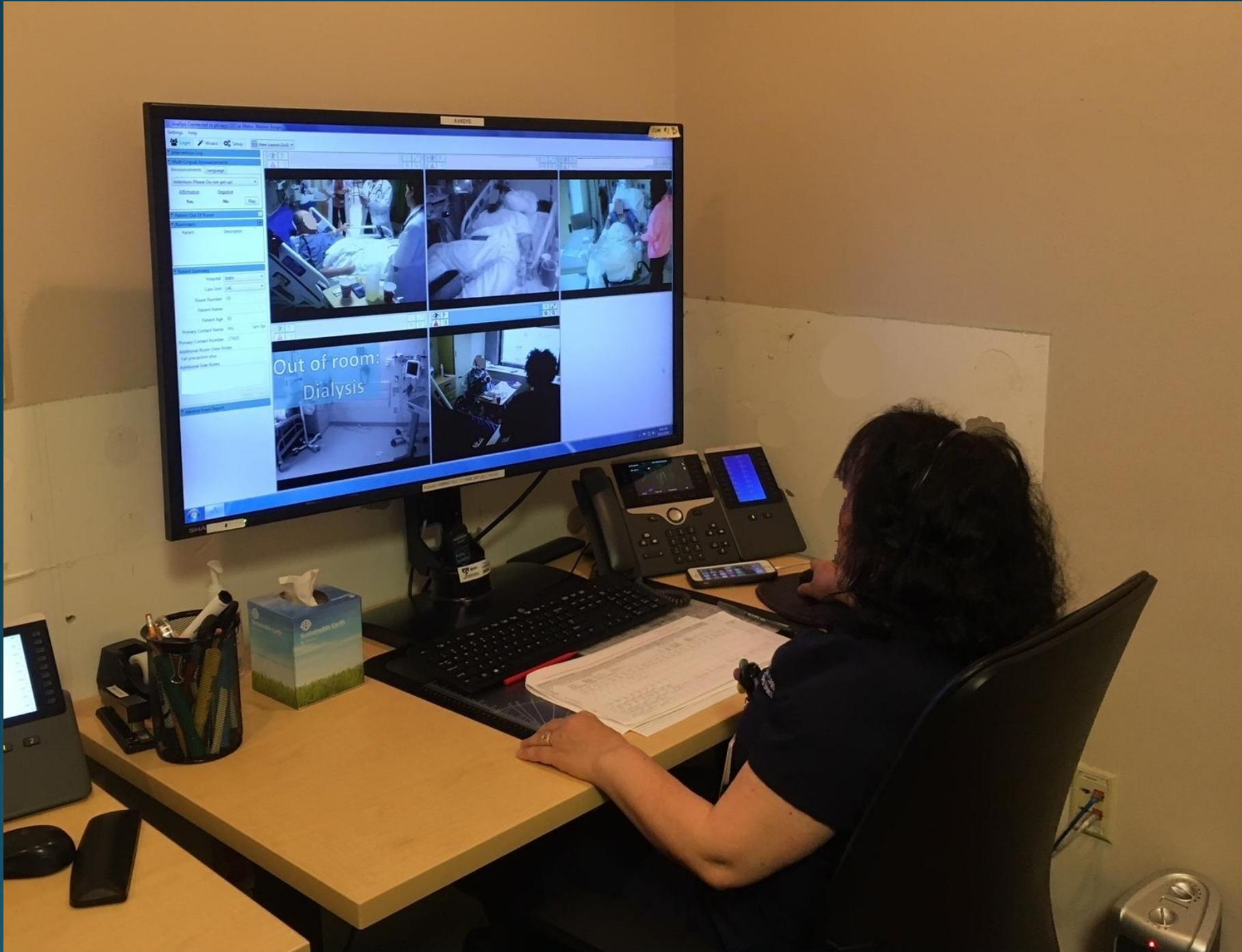
- Involvement with hospital committees
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- Identify areas of hospital need/expense
 - Constant Observation

Virtual Monitoring for Suicide Risk



The screenshot shows the journal page for 'General Hospital Psychiatry'. At the top, it says 'Contents lists available at ScienceDirect' and 'General Hospital Psychiatry' with the journal homepage URL 'www.elsevier.com/locate/genhospsych'. The Elsevier logo is on the left. The main title of the article is 'Virtual monitoring of suicide risk in the general hospital and emergency department'. Below the title is a list of authors: David S. Kroll^{a,g,*}, Escel Stanghellini^b, Stephanie L. DesRoches^b, Charles Lydon^b, Allison Webster^b, Molly O'Reilly^a, Shelley Hurwitz^{c,g}, Patricia M. Aylward^b, Jennifer A. Cartright^b, Elizabeth J. McGrath^b, Linda Delaporta^b, Anna T. Meyer^b, Michael S. Kristan^b, Laurie J. Falaro^b, Colin Murphy^a, Jennifer Karno^{a,d}, Daniel J. Pallin^{e,g}, Adam Schaffer^{c,g}, Sejal B. Shah^{a,g}, Barbara E. Lakatos^b, Monique T. Mitchell^b, Christine A. Murphy^b, Janet M. Gorman^b, David F. Gitlin^{a,g}, and Deborah F. Mulloy^f. Below the authors are footnotes for each institution: ^a Department of Psychiatry, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 75 Francis Street, Boston, MA 02125, USA; ^b Department of Nursing, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 75 Francis Street, Boston, MA 02125, USA; ^c Department of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 75 Francis Street, Boston, MA 02125, USA; ^d Division of Social Work, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 75 Francis Street, Boston, MA 02125, USA; ^e Department of Emergency Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, 75 Francis Street, Boston, MA 02125, USA; ^f Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, 200 Harvard Mill Square, Wakefield, MA 01880, USA; ^g Harvard Medical School, 250 Longwood Ave, Boston, MA 02115, USA. The page is divided into 'ARTICLE INFO' and 'ABSTRACT' sections. The 'ARTICLE INFO' section lists keywords: Suicide, Constant observation, Quality improvement, and Safety. The 'ABSTRACT' section contains the objective, method, and results. The objective is to determine if continuous virtual monitoring can be used to monitor suicide risk in the ED. The method is a retrospective analysis of a protocol from June 2017 to March 2018. The results show that 39 patients on suicide precautions received virtual monitoring, with 0 adverse events (95% CI = 0.000-0.090). Virtual monitoring was discontinued for behavioral reasons in 4/38 cases (0.105, 95% CI = 0.029-0.248).

- Results: 39 patients on suicide precautions received virtual monitoring. There were no adverse events (95% confidence interval (CI)=0.000–0.090).
- Virtual monitoring was discontinued for behavioral reasons in 4/38 cases for which the reason for terminating was recorded (0.105, 95%CI=0.029–0.248).
- Conclusions: Suicide risk can feasibly be monitored virtually in the general hospital or ED when their providers carefully select patients for low impulsivity risk.



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- Standardized guidelines
 - Suicide Assessment

Suicide Assessment Documentation

- Increasingly recognized area of general hospital risk
- JCAHO requirement for assessment in all entry areas, e.g., ED
- JCAHO recommendation for standardized tool
- Standardized tools help with consistency

Suicide Assessment Documentation

R³ Report | Requirement, Rationale, Reference

A complimentary publication of The Joint Commission

Issue 18, Nov. 27, 2018

UPDATED Nov. 20, 2019

Published for Joint Commission-accredited organizations and interested health care professionals, *R3 Report* provides the rationale and references that The Joint Commission employs in the development of new requirements. While the standards manuals also may provide a rationale, *R3 Report* goes into more depth, providing a rationale statement for each element of performance (EP). The references provide the evidence that supports the requirement. *R3 Report* may be reproduced if credited to The Joint Commission. Sign up for [email](#) delivery.

National Patient Safety Goal for suicide prevention

Requirement
NPSG 15.01.01, EP 2: BHC: Screen all individuals served for suicidal ideation using a validated screening tool. <i>Note: The Joint Commission requires screening for suicidal ideation using a validated tool starting at age 12 and above.</i> HAP: Screen all patients for suicidal ideation who are being evaluated or treated for behavioral health conditions as their primary reason for care using a validated screening tool.

Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale – C-SSRS

Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past Month	
1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?		
2) Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?		
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, skip to question 6.		
3) Have you been thinking about how you might do this?		
4) Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?	High Risk	
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?	High Risk	
Always Ask Question 6	Life-time	Past 3 Months
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? <i>Examples: Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, or collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, etc.</i> If yes, was this within the past 3 months?		High Risk

Suicide Risk Assessment

Suicide Risk Assessment

Did the patient endorse recent thoughts of harm to self or others during this encounter?

Yes ! ⏪ taken more than a year ago

Yes No ▼ 📄

Suicidal thoughts

Wish to be dead without thoughts of suicide ! ⏪ taken more than a year ago

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Wish to be dead without thoughts o... |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal ideation without plan or intent | <input type="checkbox"/> Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intent | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts of furtherance |

Self-harm thoughts

None ⏪ taken more than a year ago

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Urges without plan or intent | <input type="checkbox"/> Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intent | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent self-harm behaviors | |

Homicidal thoughts

None ⏪ taken more than a year ago

- | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Homicidal ideati... | <input type="checkbox"/> Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Intent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acts of furtherance | <input type="checkbox"/> Identified victim | | |

Violent/destructive thoughts

[None](#) ◀◀ taken more than a year ago

None

Urges without plan or intent Plan

Intent

Recent violent or destruc...

Additional details

Prior suicide behaviors or attempts

[Yes !](#) ◀◀ taken more than a year ago



Static risk factors

[Recent/new onset of psychiatric illness](#) ◀◀🔄 taken more than a year ago



Modifiable risk factors

[Psychosis](#) ◀◀🔄 taken more than a year ago



Protective factors

[Help-seeking behavior](#) ◀◀🔄 taken more than a year ago



What is the patient's current, overall, acute risk of harm to self and/or others?

[High !](#) ◀◀ taken more than a year ago



Actions taken to minimize risk of harm to self and others

[Filed a Section 12\(a\)](#) ◀◀ taken more than a year ago



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 - Delirium Management

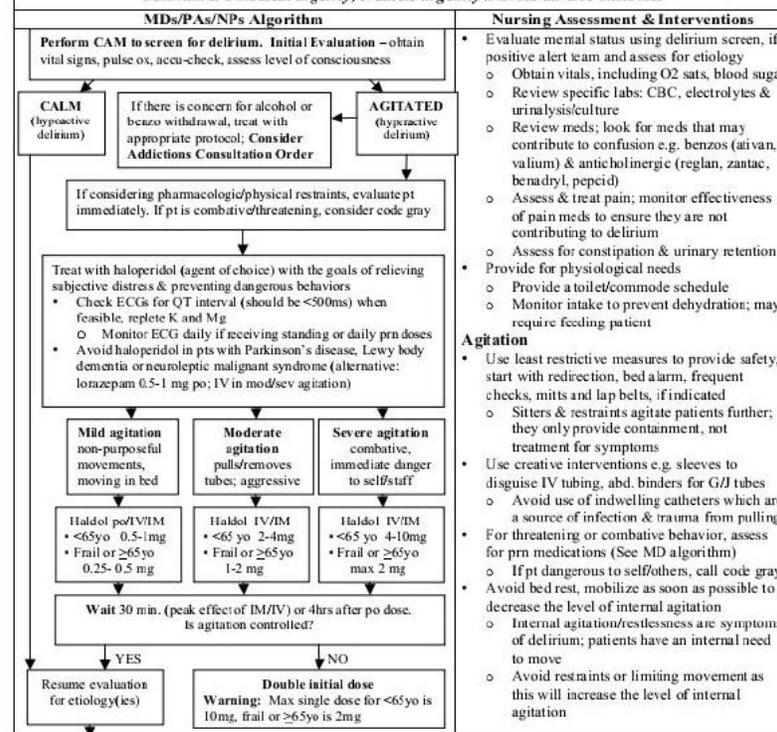
Delirium Management Guidelines

BWH Delirium Guidelines

ETIOLOGIES

- Drugs/Polypharmacy
- Alcohol/Drug withdrawal
- Infections/Sepsis
- Organ failure:
 - CHF
 - Renal failure
 - Liver failure
 - Stroke, bleed, seizure
- Post operative
- Hypoxia/hypercarbia
- Hypoglycemia
- Electrolyte abnormalities (Na, Ca, Mg, PO4, K)
- Pain
- Fecal impaction/urinary retention
- Sensory deficits—vision/hearing
- Iatrogenesis
 - Immobility
 - Restraints
 - Bladder catheter
 - Dehydration
 - Malnutrition
 - Sleep deprivation

Delirium is a medical urgency, evaluate urgently to avoid adverse outcomes

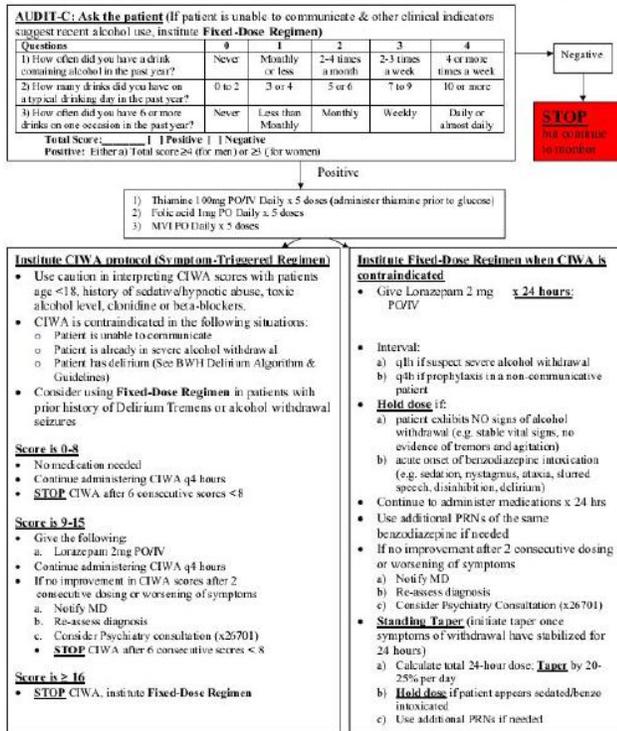


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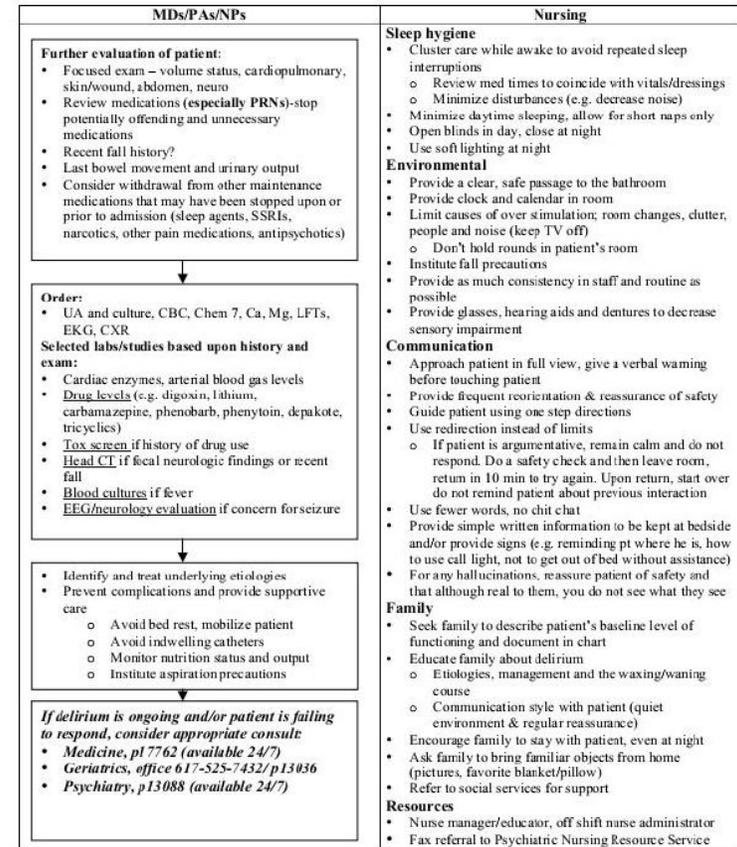
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 - Alcohol/Opioid Withdrawal

Alcohol Withdrawal Management Guidelines

Brigham and Women's - Faulkner Hospital Alcohol Withdrawal Guideline

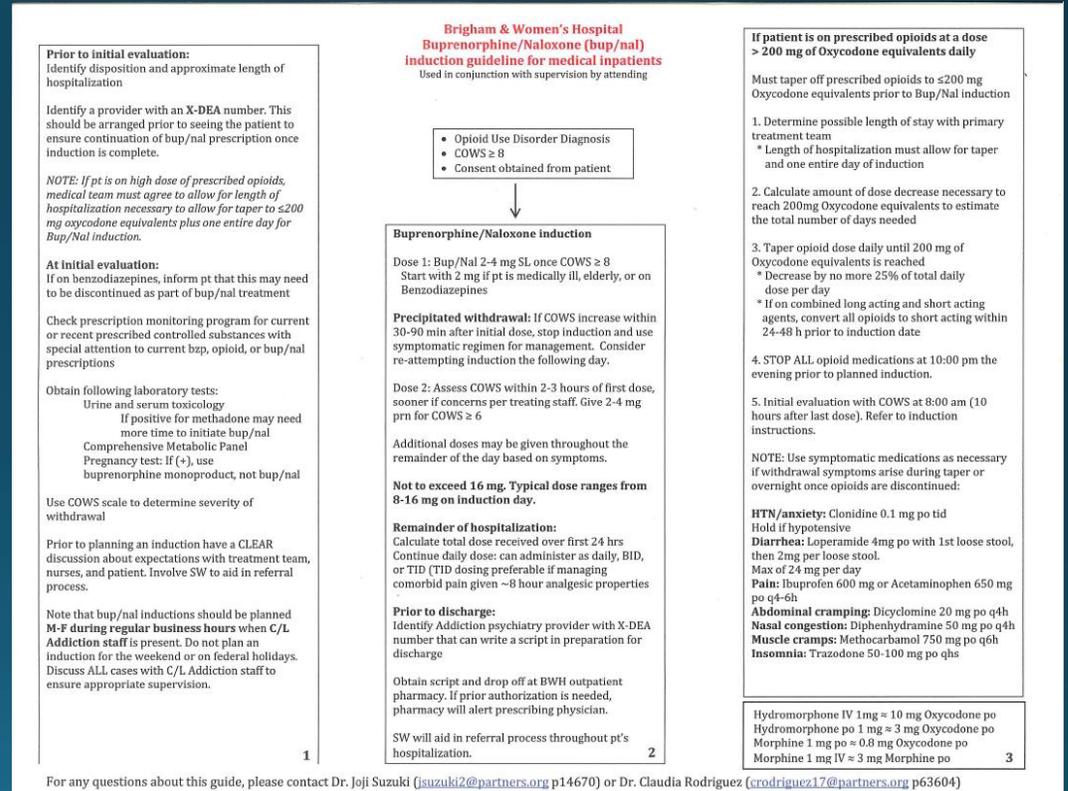
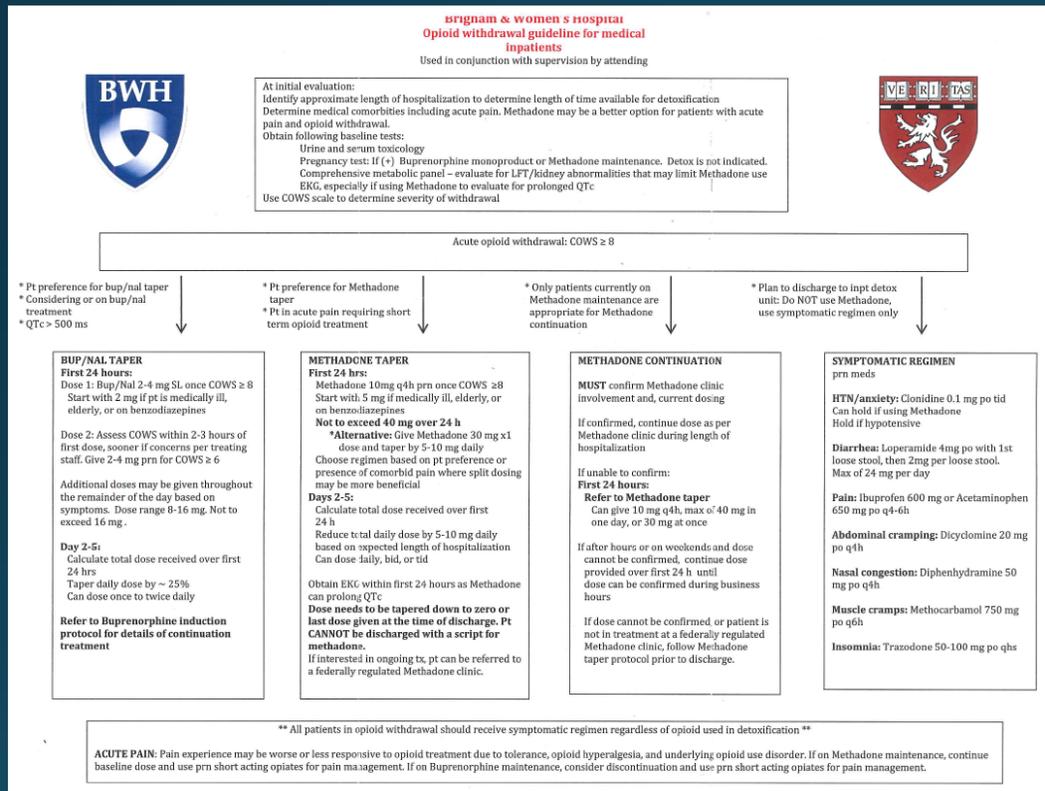


Brigham and Women's - Faulkner Hospital Alcohol Withdrawal



BWH Delirium Task Force

Opioid Withdrawal and Induction Guidelines



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 - Delirium Management
 - Alcohol/Opioid Withdrawal
- Models of Care
 - Integrated Addictions services

Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in the General Hospital

Margo C. Funk, M.D., M.A., Sara Nash, M.D., Allison Smith, M.D., Kelly Barth, M.D., Joji Suzuki, M.D., James K. Rustad, M.D., Stefania Buonocore, D.O., Abhisek C. Khandai, M.D., M.S., Michael A. Smith, Pharm.D., Shawn Jin, M.D., Karen Drexler, M.D., John A. Renner, Jr., M.D.

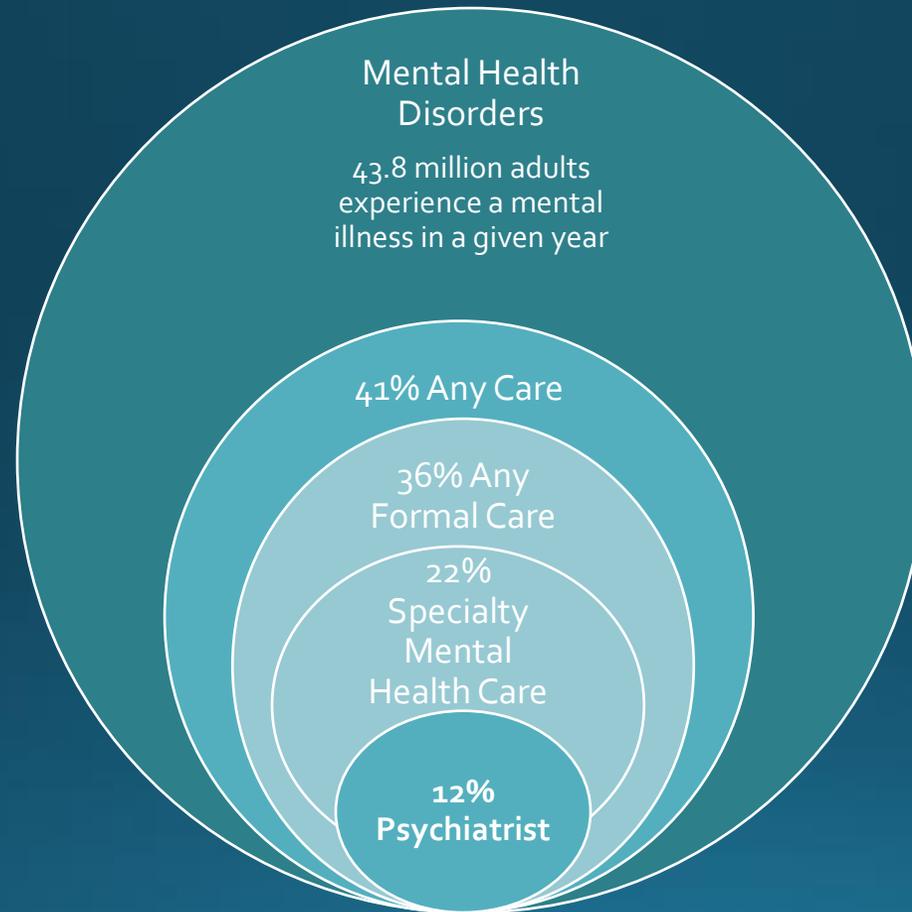
In 2022, the APA Joint Reference Committee voted to approve a comprehensive Resource Document jointly sponsored by the APA Councils on Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry and Addiction Psychiatry for psychiatrists involved in the treatment of patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in the general hospital. The full Resource Document, which includes a comprehensive review of the literature, is available

improved safety profile compared to other opioids, including less euphoria, decreased abuse liability, and a “ceiling effect” on respiratory depression regardless of the ingested amount. The high binding affinity makes it difficult to displace buprenorphine from the MOR and allows buprenorphine to displace other opioid agonists, which can lead to precipitated withdrawal. Unlike buprenorphine, methadone is a full ag-

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 - Collaborative Care – Ambulatory Consultation Model

Treatment for Mental Health Disorders



Wang, P. S., Lane, M., Olfson, M., Pincus, H. A., Wells, K. B., & Kessler, R. C. (2005). Twelve-month use of mental health services in the United States: results from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*, 62(6), 629-640.

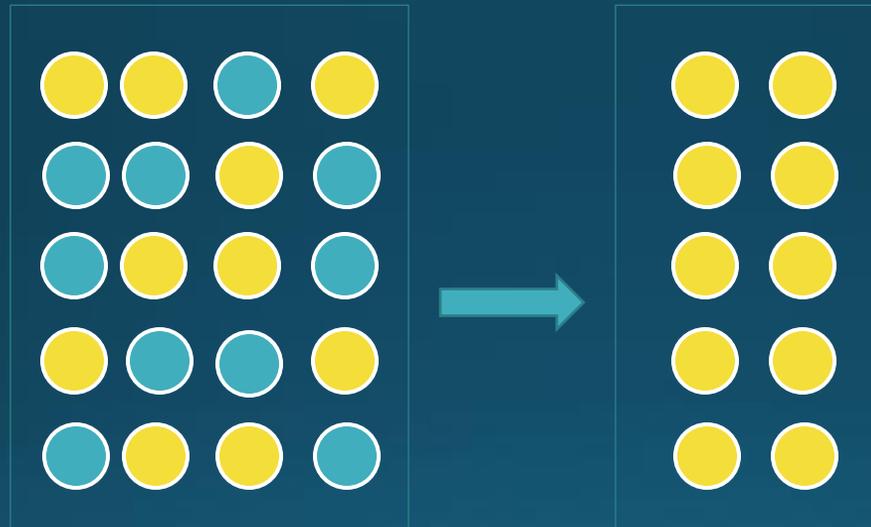
Any Mental Illness (AMI) Among Adults. (n.d.). Retrieved October 23, 2015, from <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/prevalence/any-mental-illness-ami-among-us-adults.shtml>.

Behavioral Health is a challenge for PCP practices

- Mental illness is commonly treated in primary care:
 - 43–60% of treatment for mental illness occurs in primary care
 - only 17–22% in specialty mental health settings
- PCP practices were less likely to have procedures for referrals, communication, and patient scheduling for responding to MH/SU services than for other medical subspecialties
 - (50% compared with 73% for cardiology and 69% for endocrinology).
- Practices reported that **lack of reimbursement, time, separation of MH and health systems, and sufficient knowledge** were obstacles to providing care

Why Not Just Refer? Patient Factors

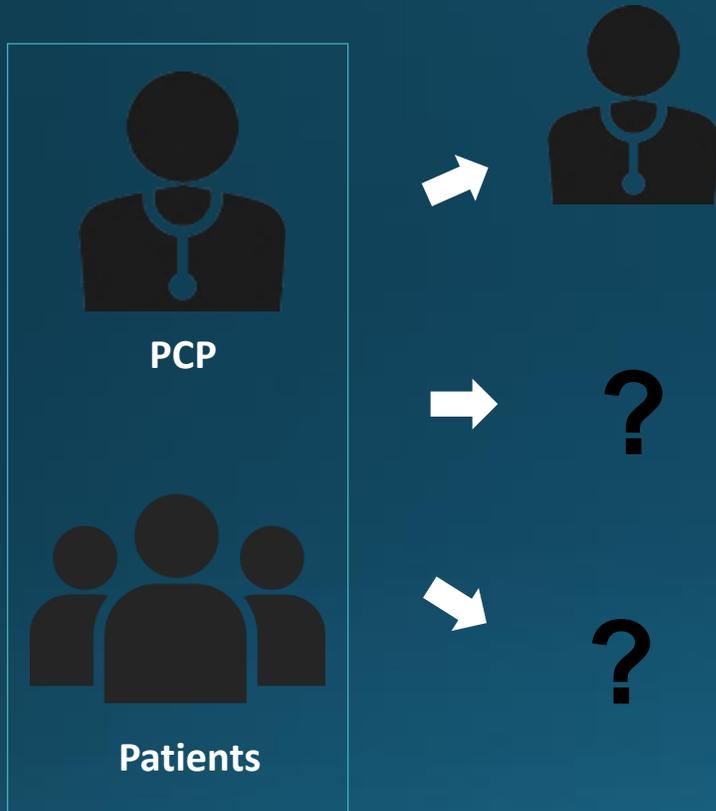
Half of those referred do not follow through.



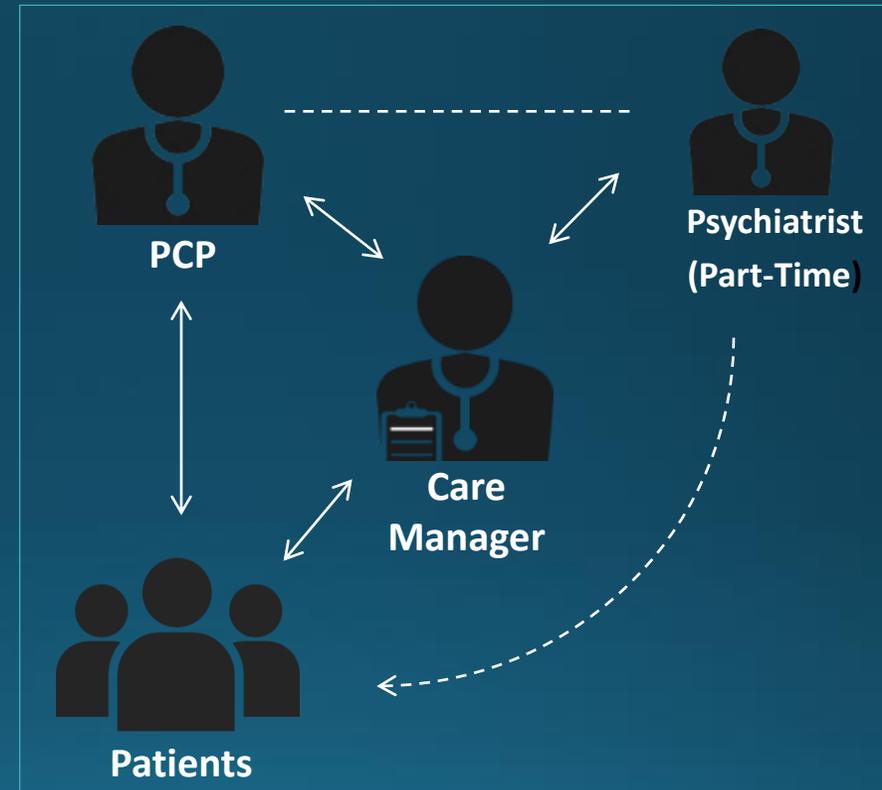
Mean # of mental health visits = 2

Solution: Collaborative Care is an evidence-based solution that can increase access

Traditional Model



Collaborative Care Model

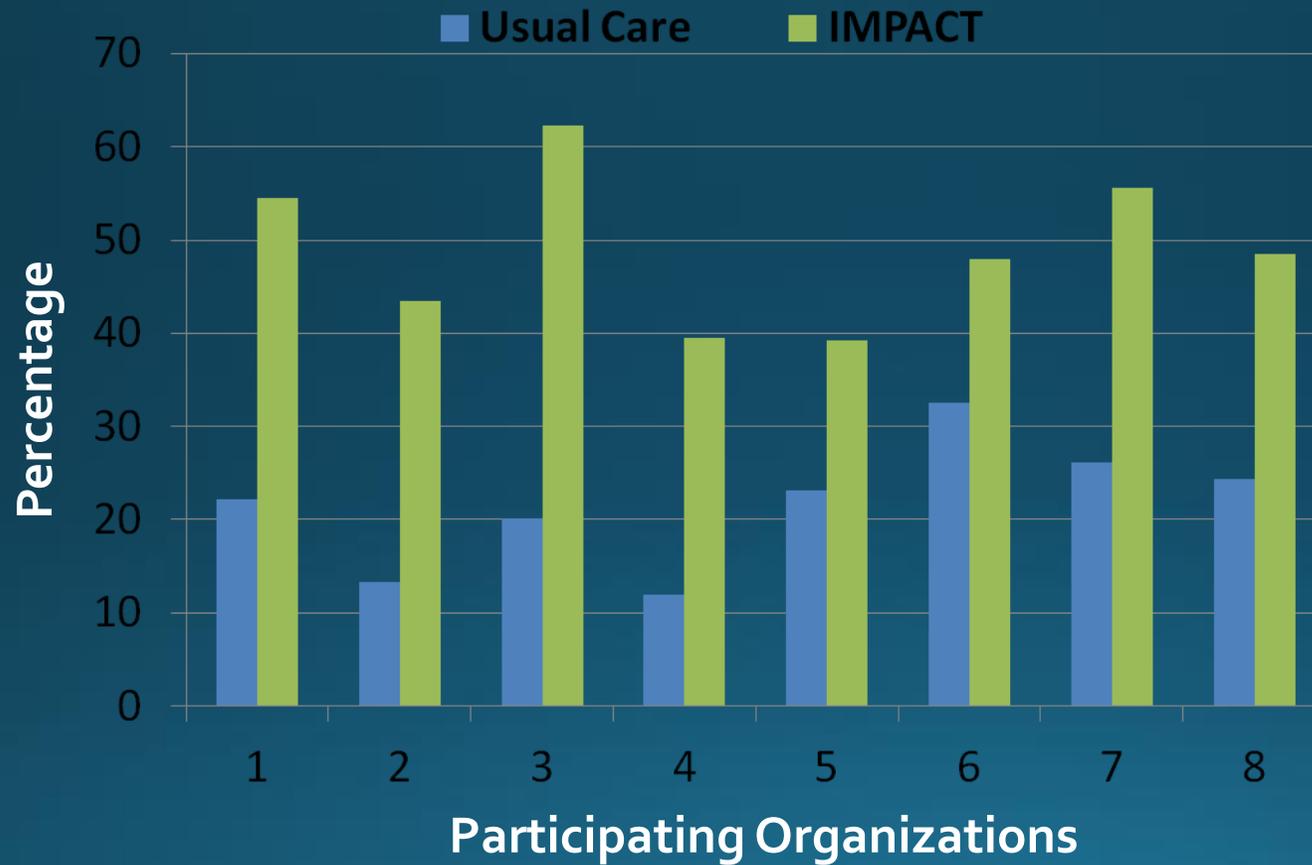


Integrated Care offers a solution

- **Improves access for patients**
 - Nearby primary care clinic
 - More timely appointments
 - Less stigmatizing
 - Lower out-of-pocket costs
- **Increases capacity of mental health providers**
 - Consultation
 - Collaboration
 - Leverages scarce mental health resources
- **2015 Milliman Report : Effective integration has potential to save \$50 billion in overall healthcare spending**

Twice as Many People Improve

50 % or greater improvement in depression at 12 months



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- Models of Care
 - Integrated Addictions services
 - Collaborative Care
 - Proactive Psychiatric service

Proactive Psychiatric Consultation

Clinical Trial > [Psychosomatics](#). 2011 Nov-Dec;52(6):513-20. doi: 10.1016/j.psych.2011.06.002.

Proactive psychiatric consultation services reduce length of stay for admissions to an inpatient medical team

Paul H Desan¹, Paula C Zimbrea, Andrea J Weinstein, Janis E Bozzo, William H Sledge

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 22054620 DOI: [10.1016/j.psych.2011.06.002](#)

Abstract

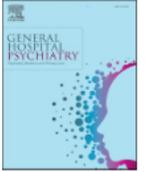
Background: Some studies suggest intensive psychiatric consultation services facilitate medical care and reduce length of stay (LOS) in general hospitals.

Objective: To compare LOS between a consultation-as-usual model and a proactive consultation model involving review of all admissions, rapid consultation, and close follow-up.

Methods: LOS was compared in an ABA design between a 33-day intervention period and 10 similar control periods, 5 before and 5 after the intervention, on an internal medical unit. During the intervention period, a staff psychiatrist met with the medical team each weekday, reviewed all admissions, provided immediate consultation as needed, and followed all cases throughout their hospital stay.

Results

- 50 % med admissions had mental health needs
- 20 % needed psych consultant to facilitate care
- Case review time was brief
- Consult rate 2x control group
- Mean LOS shorter in intervention group
- ROI 4.2



Multidisciplinary Consultation Service of Stay for Medical

William H. Sledge^{a, b} Ralitz Gueorg
Julianne Dorset^a Hochang Benjamir

^aDepartment of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine, ^b
Biostatistics, Yale School of Public Health, New Haven



ELSEVIER

journal

Research paper

An evaluation of proactive psychiatric consults on general medical units

Patrick Triplett*, C. Patrick Carroll, Ted Avi Gerstenblith, O. Joseph Bienvenu

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, United States of America



Original Research Article

Hospital Length of Stay With a Proactive Psychiatric Consultation Model in the Medical Intensive Care Unit: A Prospective Cohort Analysis

Melissa Bui, M.D.¹, Robyn P. Thom, M.D.¹, Shelley Hurwitz, Ph.D., M.A., M.S.,
Nomi C. Levy-Carrick, M.D., M.Phil., Molly O'Reilly, Dara Wilensky, M.D.,
Daniel Talmasov, M.D., Bonnie Blanchfield, S.M., Sc.D., Vineeta Vaidya, M.S.,
Rose Kakoza, M.D., M.P.H., Michael Klompas, M.D., M.P.H., Elizabeth Stanley, M.B.A., R.N.,
David Gitlin, M.D., Anthony Massaro, M.D.

Niekerk^a,

2022:63:363–371
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article

a Proactive
 psychiatry Pilot as
 Consultation on
 Demand for Hospital Medicine



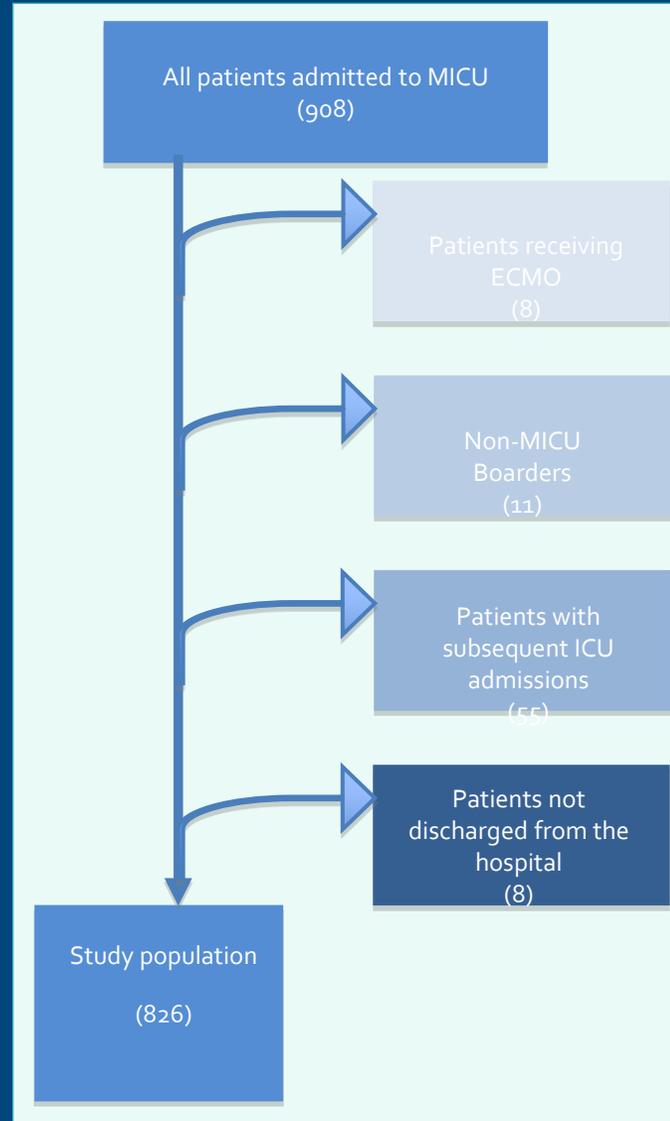
Brian D. Bronson, M.D., Abdulkader Alam, M.D., Teresa Calabrese, M.S.,
Frances Knapp, B.S.B.A., C.P.A., Joseph E. Schwartz, Ph.D.

Proactive Critical Care Psychiatry – Brigham and Women’s Hospital

Medical ICU 3B (Intervention)



Medical ICU 3C (Control)



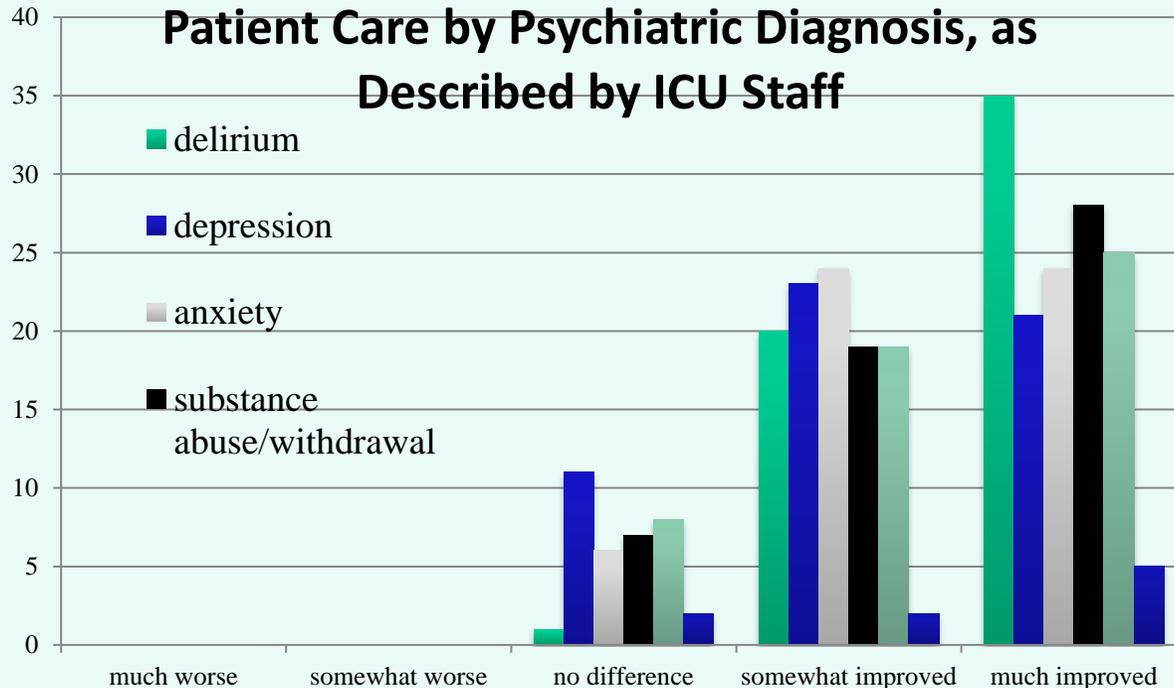
Proactive Critical Care Psychiatry – Pilot at Brigham and Women’s Hospital

TABLE 4a. Respiratory Failure Subgroup Analysis of Length of Stay (n = 426)

	Intervention MICU		Control MICU		p value	Adjusted* p value
	Mean ± SD	Median (IQR)	Mean ± SD	Median (IQR)		
Hospital LOS (mean days)	13.37 ± 12.55	9.46 (4.95–17.56)	17.70 ± 18.45	12.29 (6.58–21.10)	0.007	0.011
MICU LOS (mean days)	4.99 ± 6.31	2.95 (1.52–5.88)	5.87 ± 7.02	3.22 (1.56–7.74)	0.244	0.447

* Adjusted for age and APACHE II score.

Impact of Embedded Consultation on Patient Care by Psychiatric Diagnosis, as Described by ICU Staff



ROI 29.4

Cost savings ~ \$2-4 mil over 8 months

