



PROVIDER ALERT
April 9, 2010

Adult Admissions to Private Psychiatric Hospitals

ValueOptions® Maryland has been directed by the Mental Hygiene Administration to post the following information.

Emergency Departments, unable to admit a consumer in need of a psychiatric admission to their own facility, must adhere to the following procedure.

For all adult Medicaid and uninsured, Purchase of Care consumers between the ages of 22 and 64, the Emergency Department staff must try to place the consumer in a general hospital. At least the four closest general hospitals with appropriate psychiatry units must be contacted for an available bed.

If the Emergency Department is unable to admit the consumer to an appropriate general hospital psychiatric unit, the staff may attempt to secure an admission to a private psychiatric hospital. If a bed is available, the ValueOptions® Maryland Care Manager will request additional information, including the names of the general hospitals contacted and the reasons for the placement denial, during the authorization process.