

## 23-HOUR OBSERVATION

### I. Definition of Service:

23-Hour Observation is an intensive level of care provided in a secure, medically-staffed treatment facility. The services provided are designed for persons who, as a result of a psychiatric disorder, either pose an imminent danger to themselves or others, or are acutely and significantly disabled and cannot meet their basic personal needs. The facility must have around-the-clock nursing care and psychiatric supervision. In general, this level of care is for the individual who presents in crisis and, with assessment and intervention, can be stabilized and returned to their previous living arrangement with an established plan of care before the 23-hour period is over.

As a crisis stabilization level of care, 23-Hour Observation services may be provided within a designated 27-10 facility, as licensed by Colorado Division of Mental Health and also within sub-acute Alternative Treatment Units that are not designated as 27-10 facilities.

### II. Admission Criteria:

*All of the following criteria are necessary for admission:*

- A. Individual presents psychological symptomology consistent with ICD-9-CM and DSM-IV TR (Axis I-V) covered diagnosis.
- B. There is an indication of actual or potential danger to self or others as evidenced by one or more of the following:
  - (1) Serious suicidal intent or a recent attempt with continued intent as evidenced by the circumstances of the attempt, the statements of the individual, intense feelings of hopelessness and helplessness, command hallucinations or delusions leading to suicidal intent, or life threatening and rapid weight loss.
  - (2) An indication of actual or potential danger to others as evidenced by a current threat and the means to kill or seriously harm someone.
- C. Inability to function safely in a non-hospital setting due to either a covered DSM-IV-TR diagnosis or an unresolved differential diagnosis which includes a probable covered DSM-IV-TR disorder.

### III. Exclusion Criteria:

*Any of the following criteria are sufficient for exclusion from this level of care:*

- A. A sole diagnosis of Substance Abuse, Delirium, Dementia, or other Cognitive Disorder.
- B. Presence of any condition requiring acute inpatient medical care.

**IV. Continued Stay Criteria:**

- A. Continues to meet admission criteria and has been at this level of care for 23 hour or less.

**V. Discharge Criteria:**

*Any of the following are sufficient for discharge from this level of care:*

- A. No longer meets admission criteria or meets criteria for a more or less intensive level of care.
- B. Plan for continuation of services at another level of care has been implemented.

**VI. Frequency of Review.**

- A. No later than 23<sup>rd</sup> hours after admission.