



TITLE: Interfacility Transport Timelines for Voluntary Admission of Mental Health Clients: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

DATE: 20 March 2015

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical evidence regarding interfacility transport timelines for clients experiencing a serious mental health condition or crisis who are being voluntarily admitted to an inpatient mental health facility?
2. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding timelines for voluntary admission of mental health clients?

KEY FINDINGS

No relevant literature regarding interfacility transport timelines for voluntary admission of mental health clients was identified. References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2015, Issue 3), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2010 and 14 March 2015. Internet links were provided, where available.

SELECTION CRITERIA

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

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Table 1: Selection Criteria

Population	Any patient presenting to an outpatient setting experiencing a mental health condition/crisis who are deemed appropriate for voluntary inpatient admission
Intervention	Voluntary admission to inpatient mental health facility
Comparator	Different lengths of time between patient request for voluntary admission, pick up by emergency transport, and admission to inpatient facility
Outcomes	Effectiveness, clinical benefit or harm, safety, guidelines
Study Designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, evidence-based guidelines

RESULTS

No relevant literature regarding interfacility transport timelines for voluntary admission of mental health clients was identified. References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Non-Randomized Studies

Unclear Patient Outcomes

1. Ehmann TS, Tee KA, MacEwan GW, Dalzell KL, Hanson LA, Smith GN, et al. Treatment delay and pathways to care in early psychosis. *Early Interv Psychiatry*. 2014 Aug;8(3):240-6.
[PubMed: PM23682935](#)
2. O'Callaghan E, Turner N, Renwick L, Jackson D, Sutton M, Foley SD, et al. First episode psychosis and the trail to secondary care: help-seeking and health-system delays. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*. 2010 Mar;45(3):381-91.
[PubMed: PM19578801](#)

Length of Stay in the Emergency Department

3. Weiss AP, Chang G, Rauch SL, Smallwood JA, Schechter M, Kosowsky J, et al. Patient- and practice-related determinants of emergency department length of stay for patients with psychiatric illness. *Ann Emerg Med*. 2012 Aug;60(2):162-71.
[PubMed: PM22555337](#)
4. Chang G, Weiss AP, Orav EJ, Jones JA, Finn CT, Gitlin DF, et al. Hospital variability in emergency department length of stay for adult patients receiving psychiatric consultation: a prospective study. *Ann Emerg Med*. 2011 Aug;58(2):127-36.
[PubMed: PM21227544](#)