

GREATER COLUMBIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH Policies and Procedures

Category: Clinical
Approved On: 10/31/2005
Approved By: The Board of Directors
Revised: 00/00/00
Effective Date: 15 days from the approval date/ from the last revision date

No: CL326.00

Title: Stabilization Services Policy

I. Scope:

This service provision policy applies to all Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH) Regional Office, Member Governments, and subcontractors.

II. Purpose(s):

The purpose of this policy is to provide GCBH Regional Office, Member Governments, and subcontractors with clearly defined standards for the provision of access to and oversight of stabilization services.

III. Policy:

GCBH shall ensure that the Regional Office, Member Governments and subcontractors provide access to stabilization services prior to Intake to individuals who are admitted to an Institute for Mentally Diseased (IMD) who are under 22 years of age, aged 65 or older, meet the acutely mentally ill definition (RCW 71.24) are discharged from psychiatric inpatient care and are acutely mentally ill, on a Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA), an adult with a serious and persistent mental illness who meet GCBH Access to Care criteria and has been diagnosed with a major mental illness and meets the statutory definition for chronically mentally ill.

IV. Responsibility:

GCBH through its contracted provider network delegates the responsibility of providing access to stabilization services prior to intake.

V. Requirements:

- A. Stabilization services shall be provided by, or under the supervision of a mental health professional.

- B. Stabilization shall be culturally competent and responsive in the individual's language of choice. Services are provided in a manner that respects the individual's age and culture. Services shall have access to language bank interpreters and TDD equipment and, when appropriate, staff shall assure that age and culturally appropriate services/specialists are contacted at all critical junctures. Services shall have consultation access to Mental Health Specialists for children, disability, geriatric and minorities within 12 hours or sooner, depending on the nature of the crisis.

- C. Individuals experiencing a mental health crisis may be provided stabilization services in their home, or another home like setting, or a setting which provides safety for the individual and the mental health professional.

- D. Stabilization services shall include short-term (less than two weeks per episode) face-to-face assistance with life skills training, and information regarding medication effects.

- E. Stabilization services include:
 - 1. follow-up to crisis services and
 - 2. services to other individuals determined by a mental health professional to need additional stabilization.

- F. Stabilization services may be accessed prior to an intake evaluation.

VI. Scheduled Review of this Policy:

The review of the GCBH policies and procedures manual is on a two year cycle. The GCBH policy review and revision approval process is a three month process. This policy is scheduled to be reviewed every second year:

- A. by GCBH staff by September of even years,
- B. by the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) by October of even years,
- C. by the GCBH Board of Directors by November of even years, and
- D. outside of the schedule if required.