

December 30, 2025

Request for Oregon State Hospital Expedited Admission

**PATIENTS ON THE OSH ADMISSION LIST UNDER CIVIL
COMMITMENT OR VOLUNTARY BY GUARDIAN / HEALTH CARE
REPRESENTATIVE STATUS**

Purpose of this document:

This document sets forth protocols and processes for referral for expedited admission to Oregon State Hospital (OSH) of individuals hospitalized at an acute care facility under a civil commitment order or admitted voluntarily by guardian or health care representative (VBG/H). OSH and OHA are working in partnership with stakeholders to increase timely access to OSH.

Expedited OSH Admission of Patients under Civil Commitment Order or VBG/H:

OSH must balance the need for OSH admission for patients under civil commitment or VBG/H status with constitutional requirements for admission to OSH for patients under forensic commitments and pursuant to federal litigation pertaining to admission to OSH of patients under forensic commitments (See Oregon Advocacy Center, et al. v. Mink, et al., Oregon District Court case no. 3:02-cv-00339-AN).

Patients meeting criteria for admission based on civil commitment or VBG/H ("civil admission") to OSH are placed on the OSH Civil Admission list and are scheduled for admission based on bed availability. To achieve equitable efficiencies and maximum timeliness for all admissions, only in limited circumstances would an expedited admission for a patient under civil commitment or VBG/H be approved.

Protocol:

Individuals eligible to refer a patient for civil expedited admission to OSH: Health care personnel involved in hospital management or provision of treatment to individuals in the categories listed below.

NOTE: For civil commitment cases, a referral may be initiated prior to a civil commitment order being issued if there is a high likelihood that the patient will meet criteria for both civil commitment and OSH admission, and the qualifying criteria for expedited admission are met. However, **a patient may not be admitted to OSH under a civil expedited admission until all eligibility criteria below are met.**

Patients eligible for civil expedited admission to OSH: An individual being treated at an acute care hospital is eligible if that patient:

1. Is civilly committed or admitted voluntarily by guardian or health care representative;
2. Meets criteria for admission to OSH per OAR 309-091-0015, a Long-Term Psychiatric Care Form has been submitted to OSH, and the individual has been placed on the OSH Civil Admission List; and
3. Meets the qualifying criteria below for Civil Expedited Admission and has been approved for expedited admission by the OSH Chief Medical Officer or designee.*

* Placement on the OSH Civil Admission list can be simultaneous with approval by the OSH Chief Medical Officer or designee but is not a guarantee for or agreement to admission.

Qualifying Criteria for Civil Expedited Admission: Patients may be considered for civil expedited admission if, within the previous three weeks at the acute care hospital:

- They exhibit severe aggression directed toward other persons and/or property, or
- They are unable to meet their own basic nutritional needs such that their immediate health and safety are at risk.

AND

- They remain at ongoing high risk to themselves or others due to mental illness despite adequate treatment; **and**
- Acute care hospital leadership concurs with the treating clinical team that referral for expedited admission to OSH is appropriate and attests that all other avenues for treatment at the acute hospital or for discharge have been exhausted.

As evidenced by:

1. Hospital course documentation demonstrating that, due to symptoms of mental illness, **at least two of the following are present in the last 3 weeks:**
 - a. The patient has engaged in physical aggression resulting in physical harm or injury to others or lost time at work for an employee due to physical harm or injury to the employee;
 - b. The patient has engaged in substantial property destruction impacting patient care;
 - c. The patient has required 1:1 security staffing to prevent physical harm or injury to other patients or staff for longer than 72 consecutive hours;

- d. The patient has required recent frequent or prolonged seclusion** or restraint;
- e. Two or more acute psychiatric beds have been closed to reduce the risk of the patient causing physical harm or injury to other patients or staff; or
- f. The patient cannot be safely treated on an acute psychiatric unit with available resources.

** Behavior management plans which require that a patient may leave their assigned room only following staff assessment are considered equivalent to seclusion for purposes of this policy. An individual who has received such interventions, which reduce incidents of aggression by limiting access to peers, may still be referred for civil expedited admission.

Disqualifying Criteria for Expedited Admission: An individual who meets the criteria above but who *has an active medical condition which requires stabilization or treatment at a primary medical center is not eligible for admission to OSH.* However, referral and consultation may occur while the individual is being medically stabilized at the acute care hospital.

Process:

A referral for civil expedited admission is encouraged when a patient exhibits behavior and ongoing safety risk that meets the above criteria. Note that historical behavior, while pertinent to clinical risk assessment generally, is insufficient to justify civil expedited admission in the absence of present behavioral concerns.

The acute care hospital may refer the patient to OSH for consideration of civil expedited admission by sending the following to **the OSH Admissions Department** by fax or email.

- Medical records up to the current date, including:
 - current progress notes
 - documentation of any seclusion and/or restraint
 - documentation describing any current behavior management plan
 - medication administration records
- A written explanation by the unit medical director of:
 - the current clinical behaviors and/or concerns that may require expedited OSH admission;
 - an explanation of what need cannot be met by the acute care hospital; and
 - a description of interventions and supports that have already been implemented or attempted (which may include a description of the physical structure of the unit or location where the individual is housed).
- Name and contact information for the attending and/or covering psychiatric practitioner; and
- An attestation by an administrative director at the acute care hospital of review and approval of the referral for expedited admission.

The OSH Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or designee reviews requests for consultation and expedited admission during business hours (0800-1700) Monday through Friday. The reviewer may contact the attending practitioner if additional information is needed.

Within 1 business day of receiving all necessary information, the CMO or designee will communicate back to the referring party related to consultation/admission considerations.

- If approved, OSH will admit the patient in a timeframe deemed appropriate to the circumstances and as soon as possible considering the expedited nature of the referral.
- If denied, the patient will maintain their current place on the OSH Civil Admission List.
 - In addition, OSH will participate in a patient care conference in collaboration with the acute care hospital and CMHP, including subsequent meetings as required and agreed upon, with the goal of identifying modifications to the care plan to promote the safety of the patient, other patients, and staff.
 - A patient may be referred again following a denial if additional safety considerations arise which meet the qualifying criteria.
 - All referrals, acceptances and denials, along with the rationale for such referrals, acceptances, and denials, shall be recorded in a de-identified tracking system kept by OSH and the private hospitals and reviewed on a quarterly basis in joint meetings with the private hospitals, OSH and OHA leadership representation and any other mutually agreed upon invitees to ascertain impact on compliance with federal court orders, impact on private hospitals, and any other factors of relevance to Oregon psychiatric hospital and community behavioral health system stakeholders. These quarterly reviews and lessons learned may result in further modifications of this protocol.

Admissions Department contact information:

Phone: 503-945-9265

FAX: 503-945-9839

Email: OSH.Admissions@odhsoha.oregon.gov

Hours of operation:

Monday - Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.