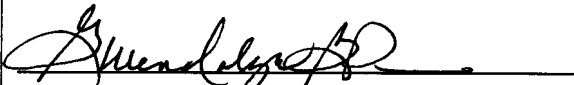
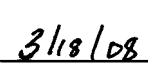


Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities & Addictive Diseases	DHR Online Directive Information System (ODIS) Directive # 6805-201 <div style="text-align: right;">Page 1 of 2</div>
DHR ODIS Policy: Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services for Consumers in Division of MHDDAD Hospitals Subject: Criteria for Admission to DHR DMHDDAD Hospitals for Persons with Mental Illness	
Applicability: All DMHDDAD Hospitals	Effective Date: April 15, 2008 Scheduled Review Date: April 2010 Approved:
References: Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) Sec. 37-3-1 (9.1)-(12) (definitions), 37-3-43, and 37-3-64.	 Gwendolyn B. Skinner, Director, Division of MHDDAD
Attachment: A – Assessment by Admitting Physician	<div style="text-align: center;">  <hr/> Date Signed </div>

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO DHR DMHDDAD HOSPITALS FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

POLICY

Admission of persons with mental illness is based upon the needs and the best interests of the individual. Decisions concerning the admission of persons with mental illness are based on independent medical judgment by physicians at the admitting facilities. Hospitalization is appropriate only when it is the least restrictive level of care available to meet the individual's needs.

Criteria for Mental Health Admissions of Adults to DMHDDAD Hospitals

1. The consumer has mental illness consisting of a disorder of thought or mood which significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life. (Traumatic brain injury does not qualify as a mental illness.) **AND**
2. Hospitalization is the least restrictive level of care available for the individual **AND**
3. One of the following:
 - The consumer presents a substantial risk of harm to himself/herself or others, as manifested by recent overt acts or recent expressed threats of violence which present a probability of physical injury to himself/herself or others **OR**
 - The consumer is so unable to care for his/her own physical health and safety as to create an imminently life-endangering crisis.

These criteria are applicable for both involuntary and voluntary civil admissions.

Every attempt is made to meet the needs of individuals presenting with primary substance use disorders by serving these individuals in the community. They are carefully evaluated to determine whether there is the presence of a mood or thought disorder that warrants admission to the Division of MHDDAD hospital.

DIVISION OF MHDDAD	SUBJECT: Criteria for Admission to DHR DMHDDAD Hospitals for Persons with Mental Illness	ODIS Directive # 6805-201
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The needs of individuals with organic brain diseases and neurological diseases of the brain are carefully evaluated to determine whether there is the presence of a mood or thought disorder that warrants admission to the Division of MHDDAD hospital.

If the consumer does not meet the criteria for admission he/she is referred to appropriate services in the community.

Every effort is made to expedite the assessment and admission decision process.

Upon arrival at the Division of MHDDAD hospital Emergency Receiving Facility, the individual is evaluated by a physician who determines whether the individual's symptoms meet the criteria for admission and whether hospitalization is the least restrictive environment for the individual.

The admitting physician documents the rationale for the decision. (See Attachment A – Assessment by Admitting Physician).

The BHL **Georgia Access and Crisis Line (GCAL)** is utilized as a resource for making referrals to hospitals and community providers. The number for GCAL is **1-800-715-4225**.

See the Policy #6801-101 **Legal Status of Persons Admitted to DMHDDAD Hospital** for additional details regarding involuntary and voluntary civil admissions.

Attachment A - Assessment by Admitting Physician

Please note that hospitals are to utilize their existing [Assessment by Admitting Physician](#) form to document as indicated in the policy.