



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Mental Hygiene Administration**

**Spring Grove Hospital Center • Dix Building  
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228**

**Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary**

**Brian M. Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: PMHS Service Providers

From: Brian Hepburn, M.D.  
Executive Director  
Mental Hygiene Administration

Date: September 18, 2009

Subject: **CARC Transition –Revised**

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As a result of the ongoing consolidation of the Public Mental Health Systems (PMHS) facilities, the Department has made the decision to close the Centralized Admission Referral Center (CARC). While CARC is closing, this does not effect the hospital diversion programs in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel County, and Montgomery County who will continue to work with the designated Emergency Departments (ED).

In addition, please be aware of the change in interpretation and enforcement of EMTALA regarding acute psychiatric admissions for private psychiatric hospitals and inpatient psychiatric units in acute general hospitals. The expectation is that individuals will be admitted to these facilities without regard to ability to pay.

A participating hospital that has specialized capabilities or facilities (such as psychiatric hospitals) **SHALL NOT** refuse to accept an **appropriate** transfer of an individual (from a hospital in the United States) who requires such specialized capabilities or facilities **IF** the hospital has the capacity to treat the individual. 42 CFR §489.24(f). This provision applies to any participating hospital (those that accept Medicare and thus Medicaid) regardless of whether the hospital has a dedicated emergency department (“ED”) §489.24(f)(i)

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*Web Site:* [www.dhmh.state.md.us](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us)

If a person is in need of psychiatric inpatient care, is in an ED which has a psychiatric unit, the hospital is obligated to admit the person if the hospital has a bed. If a person is in need of psychiatric inpatient care, is in an ED without a psychiatric unit, the ED finds the bed and refers the person for admission. If that hospital has a bed, the hospital is to admit the person regardless of ability to pay.

Contact ValueOptions at 1-800-888-1965 for courtesy reviews for individuals who are uninsured and may become Medicaid eligible.

Transfer requests for long-term mental health treatment from inpatient psychiatric units from the following jurisdictions: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Charles County, Harford County, St. Mary's County, are to be referred to **Spring Grove Hospital Center's** admissions' coordinator at **410-402-7398**.

Transfer requests for long-term mental health inpatient treatment from inpatient psychiatric units from the following jurisdictions: Carroll County, Howard County, Prince George's County, Anne Arundel County, are to be referred to **Springfield Hospital Center's** admissions' coordinator at **410-970-7240**.

For counties on the Eastern Shore, requests for long term mental health inpatient treatment from inpatient psychiatric units are to be directed to **Eastern Shore Hospital Center** at **410-221-2300**.

For counties in Western Maryland and Montgomery County, requests for long term mental health inpatient treatment from inpatient psychiatric units are to be directed to **Finan Center** at **301-777-2405**.

**If you have any questions please contact Dr. Gayle Jordan-Randolph, Clinical Director at 410-402-8300. Thank You.**

CC: Lissa Abram  
Gayle Jordan-Randolph, M.D.  
Arlene Stephenson  
Jane Plapinger  
Raymond Crowel  
Frank Sullivan  
Mary Mastrandrea  
Helen Lann, M.D.  
MHA Facility Directors  
CSA Directors