

PROCEDURE

ORIGINAL DATE: 01/92

Reviewed Date: 12/10

Home Health VNA, Inc.
Home Care, Inc.

SUBJECT: MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS INTERVENTION

PURPOSE: To establish a procedure for emergency intervention for patients experiencing a mental health crisis.

Consideration

In the case of a mental health emergency (patient is acutely suicidal, homicidal, or psychotic) the staff member who becomes aware of the situation will initiate safety measures for the patient, family, staff or any other person present.

Procedure

1. If the staff member believes the patient is a danger to himself/herself or others, s/he is to proceed as follows:
 - a. Ensure own safety - remove self if needed; know location of, and be positioned to access, the nearest exit.
 - b. Call 911 to have patient transported to Emergency Room and evaluated by the mental health crisis team.
 - c. If destination for emergent care is known, the clinician is to call the receiving location with pertinent clinical information, history and precipitating events.
2. Notify patient's physician and appropriate clinical director/designee.
3. Inform patient emergency primary contact of hospital transfer.
4. Call hospital "hot line", #4400, and leave message re: patient admission and hospital location.
5. Document all steps taken.

Approved Policy Committee: 12/14/10
Approved VP Clinical Services: 12/15/10