

Dell Children's  
Medical Center  
Emergency Department

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# Emergency Department vs. Mental Health Unit

- **Can I make an appointment for an intake?**

No.

- **Can I be directly admitted to the Mental Health Unit?**

Yes, outpatient psychiatrists can call the Mental Health Unit to attempt to admit their patient within 72 hours of last assessment by that psychiatrist.

- **Can I walk-in to be assessed in the Mental Health Unit?**

No. You will be sent to the Emergency Department

- **Can I walk-in to be assessed in the Emergency Department?**

Absolutely, always. However - there are some ways to circumvent the cost and the wait time!

# Arrival

Patients get to our Emergency Department for assessment in a variety of different ways. We will assess a child with the same level of urgency and care regardless of whether they are transported via EMS, law enforcement, family members, caregivers or arrive unaccompanied.

The exception being when a child is in need of medical attention due to an attempt including intentional overdose, hanging or other form of serious self-injury. Medical needs will be addressed first.

# C-SSRS

**Administered during triage process  
to patients 10 years and older.**

Patient may score:

No Risk

Low Risk

Moderate Risk

High Risk

# The Role of an Emergency Department Social Worker



Level of Care Determination !

# Trends

in Mental Health patients  
assessed at DCMC ED

- IDD/ASD patients
- Patients with high levels of aggression
- No bed availability in the community in general



- 60% of patients are discharged home with a safety plan
- Patients ages 6-12 years old
- Patients in the care of Child Protective Service
- Down tick in Covid + mental health patients

# Questions?

Contact us:

(512) 324-9886