

Montana State Hospital is a psychiatric facility that provides acute care psychiatric treatment for adults with serious mental illness. Admission to MSH may be for observation, evaluation, treatment, and management of behavior due to psychiatric illness.

Psychiatric criteria for admissions:

1. Meets MCA § 53-21-102 (9) (a) “Mental disorder” means any organic, mental, or emotional, impairment that has substantial adverse effects on an individual’s cognitive or volitional functions.
 - a. The term does not include:
 - i. addiction to drugs or alcohol;
 - ii. drug or alcohol intoxication;
 - iii. intellectual disability; or
 - iv. epilepsy.
 - b. A mental disorder may co-occur with addiction or chemical dependency.
 - c. Persons who will require hospitalization for observation, evaluation, care, treatment, and control of behavior arising from or related to psychiatric illness.
 - d. Mental illness does not require hospitalization unless one or more of the admission criteria is present.
 - i. Acute impairment of social, familial, or occupational functions due to mental illness where admission is voluntarily sought and approved by Regional Mental Health Centers; (the hospital reserves the right to deny voluntary admissions when the hospital is at or near licensed bed capacity), or
 - ii. Acute impairment of social, familial, or occupational function due to mental illness where involuntary admission is requested under (statute) by a designated Mental Health Professional (MHP) and one or more of the following:
 - a) the patient is so severely disabled that he/she is unable to provide for health or safety needs;
 - b) dangerous to self, others, or property of others as manifested by threats of, attempted, or actual assaultive or attempted homicidal behavior, suicidal behavior, or destruction of another’s property;
 - c) need for 24-hour hospital care with skilled psychiatric observation, evaluation, and/or intervention.
 - e. Patients with a primary psychiatric diagnosis of:
 - i. Co-morbid dementia may be accepted if there have been clear attempts to place the patient in alternative community settings. Patients with a primary diagnosis of Developmental Disability, Traumatic Brain Injury, Substance Abuse/Dependence, or Personality Disorder are not treated at MSH.

Medical Stability and Continuity of Care

The referring provider routinely determines and reports to MSH on each prospective patient's medical stability and continuing care needs. MSH will review medical stability and continuity of care information and accept/deny admission based on the referring provider's information and communication.

In order to provide the best care for patients that are being admitted from the community, we require that all necessary documentation be provided to the hospital prior to the patient being transported to our facility.

1. Medical Documentation – This includes all relevant medical documentation to treat any medical conditions the patient may have, and to ensure that the patient is medically cleared by the sending hospital. This may require a doctor-to-doctor consultation. A nurse-to-nurse report is required on all admissions. It is important that the hospital is aware of any medical conditions occurring with the patient to determine if these issues can be treated at our hospital. Our medical capabilities are limited and can be equated with a family practice office. Our pharmacy is designed to serve patients with psychiatric illness and we do not have all medications on hand that may be needed to treat certain medical conditions.
 - a. History and Physical
 - b. Current Medication List
 - c. Most Recent Psychiatric Evaluation
 - d. Behavioral Notes
 - e. Discharge Summary
2. Current Lab Work – Lab work needs to be completed within 24 hours of the patient's arrival. This needs to include a CBC (Complete Blood Count), CMP (Comprehensive Metabolic Panel), TSH (Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone, Preferred but, not required), UDS (Urinary Drug Screen), UA (Urinalysis), and Pregnancy Test. This helps the medical department to make determinations on whether or not we can manage certain illnesses. It also, provides information regarding any underlying causes that could be a factor in a patient's declining mental health.
3. COVID Test – A lab resulted (not rapid) COVID test must be completed within 24-hour of the patients arrival. If the test expires prior to the arrival of a patient, a new test will be required.
4. Court Order – A court order must be received in order to accept the patient for admission. Acceptable court orders are emergency detention order, emergency detention letter citing emergency detention statute and signed by Justice of the Peace or Judge, court-ordered detention, involuntary commitment order, and tribal commitment order. Court Orders can be sent via fax to 406-693-7267 or by email to Lindsey.Borchert@mt.gov and GWatkins@mt.gov

Please understand that we are a psychiatric facility and do not have the capability to treat certain medical conditions. It is important for our medical team to have ample opportunity to review documentation to ensure that the patient can be treated at our facility for their medical needs prior to the patient being transported.