

# COMPLIANCE & PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL CARE

How keeping your Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital compliant helps your community and reduces cost

*Prepared by Psychiatric Medical Care*

- **Is your inpatient hospital a vital part of your community but concerned with staying compliant as regulations evolve?**
- **Can your hospital save time and money by decreasing compliance related issues?**

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According to the *National Association for Behavioral Healthcare* (NABH), only 16 percent of licensed mental health facilities offer acute inpatient services, providing round-the-clock care for patients with behavioral health emergencies. Since the 1950s, there has been a 97% drop in available beds, leaving fewer state hospital beds per capita than at any time since before the nation stopped criminalizing mental illness in the 1850s. (Treatment Advocacy Center, 2016)

While it is clear the U.S. desperately needs psychiatric beds, keeping an inpatient hospital open comes with challenges. The NABH tells us that government regulation and oversight play a critical role in ensuring that patients receive quality care in a safe setting. To that end, the federal government has defined a myriad of requirements for hospitals, as well as an additional set of rules specific to inpatient psychiatric facilities. Working to comply with all these rules can be both time-consuming and costly.

Based on a NABH survey, it is "estimated that three regulatory areas collectively impose an average annual cost of \$1.7 billion (about \$5 per person in the US) on America's inpatient psychiatric facilities."

These three areas are as follows: the B-Tags (a set of CMS regulations specific to psychiatric facilities regarding medical records, patient evaluation, and staffing requirements.), the need to address and "ligature risk points," and the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA).

The results of the NABH survey "translate to an average of just under \$1 million per facility per year, or more than \$18,000 per licensed psychiatric bed."

As stated before, these regulations help ensure the quality of care and patient safety but being out of compliance with them can become costly. Non-compliance carries fines for violating EMTALA regulations.

Additionally, hospitals will be required to spend time and money updating forms and staff processes and renovating hospital areas to remove ligature risks and renovations to fix ligature risks (which can also put inpatient beds out of commission). (NABH, 2019)

Because of the potential loss of time and costs for non-compliance, it is vital that psychiatric hospitals have safeguards to ensure compliance without sacrificing safe and quality patient care. These safeguards protect psychiatric hospitals from needless costs and loss of time and resources better dedicated to patients.

## **Your hospital can benefit from Psychiatric Medical Care's (PMC) inpatient management services.**

PMC's management structure provides:

- Clinical/operational oversight of the behavioral health program
- 24/7 on-call operational support
- Adherence to national standards and best practices
- Compliance of federal requirements for key staff members
- Core measurement of success management
- Development and maintenance of quality indicators for KPIs
- Environment of care GAP analysis
- Growth & outreach planning, execution of plan and evaluation
- Oversight of behavioral health policy process
- Policy & procedure GAP analysis
- Provide an inpatient toolkit filled with best practices and processes
- Recruitment/supervision of key personnel to include Program Director (RN), Medical Director, Social Workers/Therapists, Recreational Therapist, Growth & Outreach Manager

### **ABOUT PMC**

Psychiatric Medical Care (PMC) works to improve access to behavioral healthcare in communities like yours. Our founder and Chief Medical Officer, James A. Greene, M.D., developed PMC with the sole mission of improving the function and quality of life for patients living in underserved communities. Our clinical leadership team consists of some of the country's most knowledgeable and recognized mental health leaders. We offer extensive support to our hospitals and partners, including recruiting, training, and education for each clinical function.

If you are interested in learning more about PMC and how your hospital could benefit from our partnership, contact us today:



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