

OFFICE OF OPERATIONS



OPERATIONS NOTICE NO. 1

March 16, 2007

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT KING-DREW MEDICAL CENTER

EFFECTIVE: IMMEDIATELY

The Psychiatric Emergency Department (PED) at King-Drew Medical Center closed as of December 1, 2006. The PED closure was the result of a mandate by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services mandating the downsizing of King-Drew Medical Center and renaming it Martin Luther King Junior-Harbor Hospital (MLK-Harbor).

As a result of the closure, MLK-Harbor Hospital is no longer able to accept subjects pursuant to Section 5150 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), or other psychiatric related referrals by law enforcement personnel or mental health teams. Personnel having to transport subjects detained pursuant to Section 5150 WIC shall go to one of the three remaining County hospitals: Olive View, Harbor-UCLA or Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.

Subjects who meet the criteria for a mental-health hold pursuant to Section 5150 WIC and require immediate medical treatment shall continue to be transported to the most appropriate medical facility by fire department ambulance based on the injuries and state of mind of the subject.

Note: If a subject is transported to a medical facility by ambulance, it does NOT relieve the responding unit of its obligation to notify the Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) of the incident, or of conducting a follow-up with the treating medical facility.

Department personnel shall continue to contact MEU, at (213) 485-3000, for advice related to persons suspected of suffering from mental illness or to request the assistance of the System-wide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. C. Paysinger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over the typed name of the signatory.

EARL C. PAYSINGER, Assistant Chief
Director, Office of Operations

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