



Memorandum

To: Hospital CEOs and Presidents

From: Robert R. Bass, M.D.; F.A.C.E.P.  
Executive Director, MIEMSS

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.  
Secretary, DHMH

Date: September 27, 2013

Re: Participation in the Maryland Psychiatric Bed Registry

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The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)'s Mental Hygiene Administration are working to promote the use of two new web-based psychiatric registries to assist with in-patient placement of emergency department patients who need care for mental health issues.

- The Psychiatric Bed Registry lists the types and number of available psychiatric inpatient beds as well as contact information to assist ED staff in identifying potential placement sites for psychiatric patients.
- The ED Psychiatric Patient Information Matrix describes patients who require some form of inpatient psychiatric admission, along with the likely resources required for that patient.

These new registries have the potential to reduce delays in securing inpatient resources for psychiatric patients presenting to an emergency department. ED use of the databases should reduce the amount of effort needed to contact inpatient psychiatric facilities and to identify and secure available psychiatric inpatient services. Inpatient psychiatric units using the registries will be able to quickly and easily identify current demand for inpatient psychiatric beds.

Despite the potential of these new registries, however, not all emergency departments and inpatient psychiatric units have adopted their use. Without the participation of all the inpatient psychiatric units and emergency departments, the potential benefit of these registries will not be realized.

Over the next several months, MIEMSS, the Mental Hygiene Administration and the Maryland Hospital Association will sponsor several training sessions for these two new registries. Included with this letter is a fact sheet on these registries.

**Please discuss these new registries with your facility's Emergency Department and / or Psychiatric Unit staff and encourage them to attend an upcoming training session and use the registries.**

The new registries are intended to improve our healthcare systems' response to the needs of psychiatric patients throughout Maryland. We look forward to working with you to ensure the success of this initiative. Thank you for your participation in this effort.