

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR OSAWATOMIE STATE HOSPITAL

December 9, 2014

As a result of ongoing and critical census challenges at Osawatomie State Hospital (OSH), the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) has put in place new admissions policies in order to better manage the census and ensure the availability of OSH services for individuals in critical need.

- 1) Voluntary admissions are suspended immediately until the hospital census reaches 185 at OSH. In the future, this moratorium on voluntary admissions will be imposed when the hospital census reaches 185 in order to maintain census below the licensed number of beds, 206.
- 2) Involuntary admissions will be aggressively triaged. Immediately, and whenever the OSH census reaches 185, the hospital will implement the intensive triage system. As before, hospitals should contact their area Community Mental Health Center to initiate the screening process.

The new admissions policies should not be interpreted to mean that OSH is no longer accepting new patients. That is not the case. Over the course of last weekend, for example, 11 involuntary patients were admitted to OSH. Since the new process went into place on December 3, there have been 31 involuntary admissions.

We understand these new policies may result in patients who are experiencing mental health crisis remaining in community hospital settings longer than they have in the recent past. If individuals can be maintained temporarily in a safe environment in their communities, this will help ensure that capacity at OSH remains available to those patients for whom inpatient care at OSH is required.

It is of paramount important that such individuals be in a secure environment, and this will ensure that space will be available to those patients for whom there is no other alternative than in-patient care at OSH.

By state statute, patients will not be admitted to OSH if their sole diagnosis is anti-social personality syndrome, substance use disorder, or an organic mental disorder such as trauma or dementia.

Your communication of these policies to your staff and community partners will be greatly appreciated. The agency remains committed to increasing the resources needed to help support individuals in crisis. Please direct any questions to Gina Meier-Hummel at 785 230-8005, gina.meierhummel@kdads.ks.gov.