

Mental Health Observation Status

Target Launch Date: Nov 1, 2022

WHAT ARE OBSERVATION SERVICES?

Observation services are for patients that require a significant period of treatment or monitoring to determine whether patient will be admitted or discharged

Time is the requirement

WHERE CAN OBSERVATION TAKE PLACE?

- Observation is a status, not a place!
- Observation services may take place:
 - in a regular bed in the ED
 - in a special observation area of the ED

WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Initial day documentation:

- Physician/APC must document in chart: “Patient **placed** in observation status for mental health evaluation. (Tx plan while in observation).”

Remember this is not an order, it’s a status

This will trigger billing to look for subsequent observation charts from this encounter

APC CHARTING IN OBSERVATION STATUS

- Use regular ER note
- Dated and timed.
- Document “Day 1 of observation status pending mental health evaluation”
 - This will communicate to billing this is an ED observation patient
- Brief HPI, PE and MDM is sufficient
 - ROS, Past Med/Surg/Social Hx does not need to be repeated
- APC use the on shift collaborating physician to co-sign chart. Attestation only, face-to-face is not required

SUBSEQUENT DAYS IN OBSERVATION STATUS

- Requires independent documentation (use regular ER note)
- Dated and timed.
- Mention day of observation status (Day 2, Day 3, etc).
“Day (__) of observation status pending mental health evaluation”
 - This will communicate to billing this is an ED observation patient
 - Brief HPI, PE and MDM is sufficient
 - ROS, Past Med/Surg/Social Hx does not need to be repeated
- APC use the on shift collaborating physician to co-sign chart. Attestation only, face-to-face is not required

DISCHARGE SUMMARY RELEASE FROM OBSERVATION

- Use regular ER note
- Document: *“Patient is discharged from observation status”*
- Date and Time
- PE and MDM (Brief review of the patient status)
- Disposition
 - If discharged home:
 - Instruction for follow up care
 - If admitted to Mental Health Services:
document Pt admitted to MHS
- APC use the on-shift collaborating physician to co-sign chart. Attestation only, face-to-face is not required

Summary

- When patients are pending mental health evaluation (MHE) for placement or discharge, APCs will be utilized to assist with managing care when MHE is delayed.
- Once the initial Physician/APC identifies a need for MHE and has medically cleared the patient for psychiatric services, they will “place” the patient in *ED observation status* while the patient waits for MHE.
- The APC will be responsible for subsequent charting, reevaluation, and management of treatment plan (to include diet order and maintenance/PRN meds). Cosign with on-shift collaborating physician.
- When the mental health evaluator has determined disposition of patient (admit or discharge), the APC will do a discharge summary and discharge patient from observation status.