

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

The Connecticut Hospital Association supports initiatives to strengthen behavioral healthcare services for children and adults. These recommendations are designed to improve health outcomes, promote integrated service delivery models, increase access to care, establish reimbursement rates that cover service costs and promote caregiver retention, and afford providers with sufficient flexibility to meet evolving needs.



1. MATCH RESOURCES TO NEEDS

Improve access to care by matching available resources to evolving needs across the continuum (e.g., restoring residential levels of care for children and adolescents, and establishing an adequate supply of long-term and intermediate-term beds).

2. ACHIEVE EQUITABLE REIMBURSEMENT

Improve access by establishing reimbursement rates that better approximate the cost of care and are sufficient to recruit and retain providers of these services.

3. ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO CARE

Adjust the Medicaid State Plan and implement 1115 waivers or amendments, as appropriate, to provide reimbursement for services (e.g., telehealth).

4. PROVIDE SEAMLESS CARE TRANSITIONS

Support funding of services to achieve a seamless integration of treatment for individuals of all ages experiencing developmental and behavioral health disorders.

5. PROMOTE INNOVATION

Implement integrated service delivery models including medical, psychiatric, social, and residential needs by funding high-risk navigators for community care teams, recovery coaches, and intensive case managers.

6. ESTABLISH COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS

Support the creation of community-based psychiatric assessment centers with the capacity to evaluate and stabilize patients in a behavioral health crisis, to improve access to care at the optimal level of care (e.g., reduce overreliance on emergency departments).

A CLOSER LOOK AT CONNECTICUT



■ MORE PATIENTS

Between FY 2015 and FY 2020, Connecticut hospitals experienced a 27% increase in patient visits with a behavioral health diagnosis. This number does not include behavioral health services delivered by hospital clinicians via telehealth, which increased to historic and unprecedented levels during the COVID-19 pandemic.



■ MORE CHILDREN

There were nearly 32,000 hospital visits for behavioral health among children and young adults ages 0-19 in FY 2020. During this same period, patient visits on Outpatient Observation status, allowing a doctor to monitor a child or young adult's condition in order to determine whether an admission is required or whether they may return home, increased by almost 300%.



■ MORE HOSPITAL VISITS

Inpatient, Emergency Department, and Outpatient Observation visits where a behavioral health condition was the principal or secondary diagnosis increased from 30% of all hospital visits in FY 2015 to 45% in FY 2020.

Data Source: FY 2020 ChimeData

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