

# TYPES OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

## A. Background

In California, the state Department of Health Services, Licensing and Certification Division regulates acute and long-term care health facilities. In addition, the state Department of Mental Health has regulatory responsibility for psychiatric health facilities, mental health rehabilitation centers and skilled nursing facilities with special treatment programs. Community care facilities are regulated by the state Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division.

## B. Types of Facilities

### 1. General Acute Hospitals (22 C.C.R. § 70001 et. seq., specific provisions for the psychiatric unit, 22 C.C.R. § 70575)

These psychiatric units are located within or adjacent to general acute care hospitals. They are separate psychiatric units, often, but not required to be, locked. They are licensed and regulated by the Department of Health Services. They provide short term care for acutely ill patients, but do not care for chronically ill patients on a long-term basis. Services are Medi-cal reimbursable.

### 2. Acute Psychiatric Hospitals (22 C.C.R. § 71001 et. seq.)

These are free-standing, usually private, psychiatric hospitals licensed and regulated by the Department of Health Services. The regulations cover physical space, staffing, records, service activities and procedures with different, somewhat high standards for psychiatric services than general acute care-psychiatric standards. Acute Psychiatric facilities are often, but not required to be, locked and provide treatment on a short-term basis.

### 3. Psychiatric Health Facilities (PHF) (22 C.C.R. § 77001 et. seq.)

These facilities are licensed and regulated by the Department of Mental Health, which has more limited enforcement options and does less monitoring than the Department of Health Services. The regulations cover physical space, staffing, records, service activities and procedures. They have lower staffing ratios and fewer licensed staff than other acute facility. They provide minimal medical services. Services are Medi-Cal reimbursable if the facility has less than 17 beds.

### 4. Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD) (22 C.C.R. §§ 72001, 72443 et. seq.)

These facilities are long term nursing homes. When more than 50% of the patients are mental health patients, the facilities are considered IMDs and ineligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement. Counties contract with the facilities to provide beds for conservatee in exchange for patient fees (paid out of SSI) and supplemental payments made by the counties. SNF/IMDs are licensed and regulated by the Department of Health Services. Special psychiatric programming is covered under section 72443 et seq. The regulations cover physical space, staffing, records, service activities and procedures. In addition, federal law covering nursing homes applies to these facilities.

### 5. Skilled Nursing Facilities (22 C.C.R. § 72001 et. seq.)

Skilled nursing facilities provides 24 hour nursing supervision for residents and are licensed and regulated by the Department of Health Services. The minimum services which should be available in a SNF include: physician services, skilled nursing services, dietary services, pharmaceutical services, activity program, special disability resources/social services, transportation to medical and therapeutic services and emergency access to physician's services. The SNF is for the individual who requires continuous skilled

## TYPES OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

nursing care but does meet the requirements either for acute hospital care or for home health care-related services.

### **6. Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) (9 C.C.R. § 781 et. seq.)**

These are long term care facilities created under legislation with the intent of providing more individualized treatment for clients in a treatment intensive setting. Staffing levels are lower than those of Skilled Nursing Facilities and other health care settings. Unlike other treatment centers, MHRC's are regulated by the Department of Mental Health in conjunction with local county mental health authorities.

### **7. Adult Residential Facilities (Board & Cares) (22 C.C.R. § 85000 et. seq).**

These community care facilities provides services to persons who need assistance with activities of daily living such as dressing, bathing, receiving an adequate diet, etc. Residents may have some functional disabilities, but should not require medical care and supervision on a daily basis.. Adult Residential Facilities are licensed and regulated by the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing. Regulations are very specific on physical space, care provided, food and the provision of a Needs and Services Plan for each resident.

### **8. Residential Treatment Center/Group Homes and Community Treatment Facilities**

For a discussion of facilities for minors, see Chapter XVI. Minors.