



## Advisory 22-02: Mental Health Alternative Destination Protocol

To: All EMS Agencies and Providers

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P, FACEP, FAEMS  
Regional Medical Director

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In partnership with the Rochester Regional Health Behavioral Health Access and Crisis Center (BHACC), and with the support of the Monroe County and State Offices of Mental Health, the attached Mental Health Alternative Destination Protocol may now be utilized by any Monroe-Livingston EMS agency to transport individuals meeting the protocol to the BHACC located at 65 Genesee Street (entrance off Chili Avenue, see image) effective immediately.

Individuals who voluntarily wish to be evaluated can be transported to the BHACC provided they meet all protocol criteria and consent to transport to the BHACC. Individuals placed under MHL §9.41 by law enforcement can also be transported to the facility but do not require consent if they meet all protocol criteria. ***If the patient does not meet all of the criteria identified in the protocol, they are to be transported to the most appropriate emergency department.***

The criteria for transport to the BHACC are intentional in order to assure the individual being transported has the necessary resources to address their mental health need, particularly given the BHACC has very limited medical capacity. Routine Quality Assurance reviews in partnership with BHACC leadership monitor use of the protocol, and after a two month pilot period with AMR Rochester, the algorithm is serving our patients well and is a valuable resource to our community.

With any questions do not hesitate to contact this office.



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## Mental Health Alternative Destination Protocol

**ALL** of the following criteria **must** be met in order to initiate transport to the Rochester Regional Health Behavioral Health Access and Crisis Center (BHACC) located at 65 Genesee Street:

- Between 9 am and 8 pm
- Age  $\geq$  18
- Not under MHL §9.45
- Ambulatory without assistance
- Primarily psychiatric (depressed, anxious, suicidal thoughts) or substance use disorder complaint (desire for rehabilitation/treatment)
- No primary medical or trauma complaint (chronic ailments are not a consideration unless presenting as primary concern), or signs of obvious injury requiring treatment (sutures, fractures, etc.)
- Do not appear intoxicated (lack of decisional capacity or not ambulatory)
- No concern for overdose or ingestion
- No history of violence
- Do not require physical restraint
- Law enforcement does not require notification prior to facility discharge
- Vital signs are within the following ranges:

GCS 15

Pulse 50 - 120

Respiratory Rate 12 - 24

Systolic BP 90 - 200

Diastolic BP  $<$  120

SpO<sub>2</sub>  $>$  92% Room Air

BG 60 - 300 (in known/suspected diabetic)

If **ANY** of the above criteria are not met, the patient cannot be transported to the BHACC and should be transported to the most appropriate emergency department.

**Before** transporting patients who meet these criteria and agree to transport to the BHACC, contact the facility at 585-368-3950 to confirm the facility is accepting patients at that time.

All patients may be transported to the BHACC who meet these criteria regardless of current / prior hospital system care affiliation.