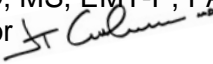




Advisory 25-01: Mental Health Alternative Destination Algorithm

To: All EMS Agencies and Providers

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

Date: February 25, 2025

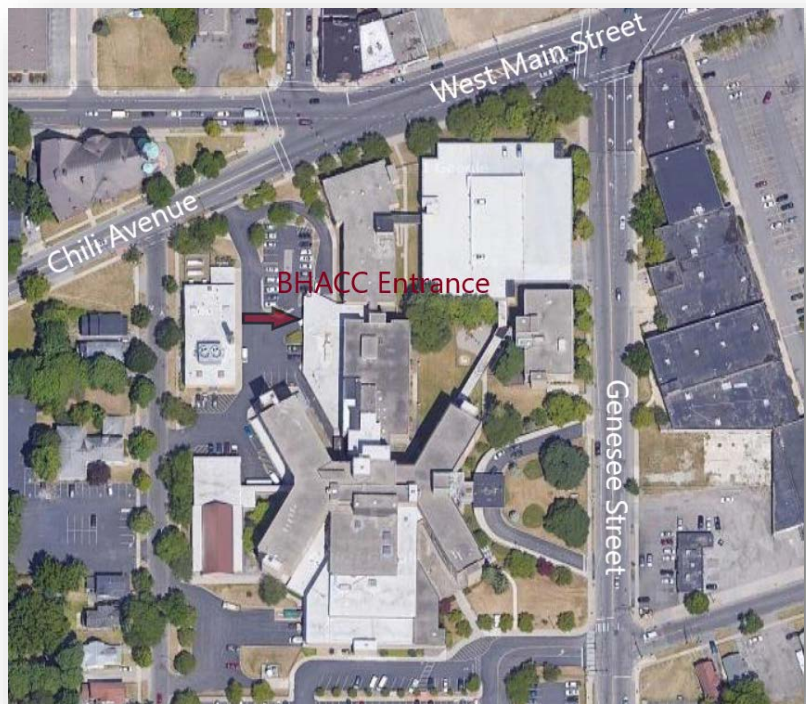
The Rochester Regional Health Behavioral Health Access and Crisis Center (BHACC) pilot project to accept patients placed under MHL §9.41 has now expired. However, **they are still able to accept patients requesting voluntary evaluation.** An updated Mental Health Alternative Destination Protocol is attached.

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. **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. The BHACC remains an important asset in our community for individuals seeking services and decreasing the burden on our area Emergency Departments.

The updated Mental Health Alternative Destination Protocol is attached and may continue to 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). Law enforcement may continue to transport voluntary patients to the BHACC.

This guidance supersedes Advisory 22-02 which is rescinded. 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 89 Genesee Street:

- Between 9 am and 8 pm
- Age \geq 18
- Not under MHL §9.45 or §9.41**
- 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
SpO₂ > 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.