

218.400

Acute Crisis Units

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Medicaid covers Acute Crisis Units for all ages of clients who have the ability to benefit from care within the setting. To ensure the safety and age appropriate treatment of all clients, if beds are not physically separated, beds should be grouped by children age four (4) to twelve (12), adolescents age thirteen (13) to eighteen (18) and adults over age eighteen (18) with consideration within those ranges given for developmental functioning. Request for Extension of Benefits based upon medical necessity must be obtained for services extending beyond 96 hours.

[View billing Instructions for Acute Crisis Unit reimbursement.](#)

- A. Acute Crisis Units can provide brief crisis treatment services to persons age ~~nineteen (19)~~ four (4) years of age or older, who are experiencing a psychiatry- and/or substance abuse-related crisis and may pose an escalated risk of harm to self or others. ~~Acute Crisis Units provide hospital diversion and step-down services in a safe environment.~~ These units provide hospital diversion and step-down services in a safe environment with psychiatry and substance use disorder services available on-site, as well as on-call psychiatry available 24 hours per day.
- B. A Hospital that is operating an Acute Crisis Unit must ensure that, at a minimum, the following services are available:
- ~~a~~1. Ongoing assessment and observation;
 - ~~b~~2. Crisis intervention;
 - ~~e~~3. Psychiatric, substance, and co-occurring treatment; and
 - ~~d~~4. Referral mechanisms for independent assessment and care planning as needed.
- C. A Hospital that is operating an Acute Crisis Unit can also provide Substance Abuse Detoxification within the Acute Crisis Unit. Substance Abuse Detoxification is a set of interventions aimed at managing acute intoxication and withdrawal from alcohol or other drugs. Services help stabilize beneficiaries by clearing toxins from the beneficiary's body. Services are short-term and may be provided in a crisis unit, inpatient, or outpatient setting, and may include evaluation, observation, medical monitoring, and addiction treatment. Detoxification seeks to minimize the physical harm caused by the abuse of substances and prepares the beneficiary for ongoing treatment.