

PROVIDER ALERT

Notice of Emergency Regulations: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Registry and Referral System

March 15, 2023

[Emergency Regulations](#) are now in effect to implement the **Maryland Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Registry and Referral System** to better serve patients, improve health outcomes, and reduce emergency department boarding.

► The emergency regulations require hospitals to refer behavioral health patients who may require additional care coordination for inpatient, outpatient, or community based behavioral health services, after undergoing an initial psychiatric evaluation, no later than 48 hours after arrival in the emergency department. Hospitals can meet the requirements of the emergency regulation by referring these patients to the [211 Behavioral Health Care Coordination Program](#), which supports hospital discharge planners in locating behavioral health services.

The [211 Behavioral Health Care Coordination Program](#) is easy to use:

#1 When Emergency Department staff need additional assistance locating behavioral health resources, **refer** at **211md.org/CareCoordination** or by dialing 2-1-1 and immediately pressing 4.

#2 The [211 Behavioral Health](#) Care Coordinators immediately begin **connecting** hospital staff and patients to available, conveniently located behavioral health services - and when needed, access additional assistance with challenging cases from the Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Hospital Coordination team.

#3 The [211 Behavioral Health](#) Care Coordinators **follow-up** to ensure a successful placement and update the electronic record to close the loop with discharge planners.

► The emergency regulations also require inpatient psychiatric facilities to report certain data on bed availability three times per day. This data is accessible at both **211md.org/CareCoordination** and on the [Behavioral Health Hospital Coordination Dashboard](#) to help discharge planners locate available beds without multiple phone calls or unnecessary delays. The dashboard is available to all providers looking to identify available resources for their patients. In addition, the online dashboard includes

crisis beds, short-term community-based stabilization services, and locations of behavioral health urgent care resources that offer walk-in and same-day appointments.

Please see the full text of the emergency regulation [here](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team