



Monterey County Behavioral Health Policy and Procedure

Policy Number	335
Policy Title	Assessing and Initiating a 5150 in Outpatient and Integrated Care Clinics
References	MCBH policy 333: Involuntary Treatment for Individuals with Mental Health Disorders; MCBH policy 334: Staff Authorized to Initiate Involuntary Holds
Form	http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/DHCS-1801-0618.pdf
Effective	10/22/15 Revised 08/25/16 Revised 12/3/18

1 **Policy**

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3 I. PURPOSE

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5 To define a set of standard practices that will be implemented in all clinics when an ongoing client
6 or an individual presents for walk-in services presents with behaviors, thoughts, or symptoms that
7 warrant an assessment for an involuntary hold ("5150" for the purpose of this document).

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9 II. LEGAL STATUTE

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11 5150.05.

12 (a) When determining if probable cause exists to take a person into custody, or cause a
13 person to be taken into custody, pursuant to Section 5150, any person who is authorized to take
14 that person, or cause that person to be taken, into custody pursuant to that section shall consider
15 available relevant information about the historical course of the person's mental disorder if the
16 authorized person determines that the information has a reasonable bearing on the determination
17 as to whether the person is a danger to others, or to himself or herself, or is gravely disabled as a
18 result of the mental disorder.

19 (b) For purposes of this section, "information about the historical course of the person's
20 mental disorder" includes evidence presented by the person who has provided or is providing
21 mental health or related support services to the person subject to a determination described in
22 subdivision (a), evidence presented by one or more members of the family of that person, and
23 evidence presented by the person subject to a determination described in subdivision (a) or
24 anyone designated by that person.

25 (c) If the probable cause in subdivision (a) is based on the statement of a person other
26 than the one authorized to take the person into custody pursuant to Section 5150, a member of the
27 attending staff, or a professional person, the person making the statement shall be liable in a civil
28 action for intentionally giving any statement that he or she knows to be false.

29 (d) This section shall not be applied to limit the application of Section 5328.

30 **Procedure**

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32 When an ongoing client or an individual who presents for walk-in services at any outpatient clinic
33 needs to be placed on a 5150, the following steps should be completed:

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- 35 1. Complete a risk assessment with the individual.
 - 36 2. If the individual was referred to the clinic by an outside provider, it is crucial to obtain collateral
37 information from the referring source. This can be completed by:
 - 38 a. Gather information about the historical course of the person's mental health disorder by
39 researching forwarded written information and/or the person's Electronic Health Record
40 (EHR).
 - 41 b. Collateral Providers: Contact the person or persons who have referred or are providing
42 mental health or related support services this includes but is not limited to physicians,
43 psychiatrists and/or family members.
 - 44 3. After gathering sufficient information to make a determination on whether the individual needs to
45 be placed on an involuntary hold or not, the following steps must be taken:
 - 46 a. If the individual **does not** meet criteria to be placed on a 5150 hold, consult with your
47 unit supervisor then proceed to formulate a safety plan and appropriate interventions
48 through outpatient services.
 - 49 i. Document the risk assessment and safety plan in detail via progress note in the
50 electronic health record (Avatar).
 - 51 ii. Complete a Hot Sheet in Avatar. A Hot Sheet is used as a means of
52 communicating to the Emergency Department ACCESS/Crisis Team any concerns
53 and risks that may require additional exploration.
 - 54 b. If the individual **meets criteria** and should be placed on a 5150 hold. Consult with your
55 unit supervisor and coordinate with your office Patient Support Representative (PSR)
56 for additional support. Complete these additional steps (does not have to follow this
57 sequence).
 - 58 i. Complete the 5150 and advise the patient or document why you were unable to
59 advise the patient.
 - 60 ii. Consider asking the PSR to help move community members into a safe area if
61 there is a danger of the individual acting in a harmful manner.
 - 62 iii. For all sites **except** 1441 Constitution Blvd, Bldg 400, Salinas, CA, you may
63 designate a staff member to call county communications and request an
64 ambulance to transport the individual on a 5150 to Natividad Medical Center's
65 Emergency Department (NMC ED). If incident occurs in the coastal area,
66 ambulance may transport the individual to Community Hospital of the Monterey
67 Peninsula (CHOMP). It may also be necessary to request law enforcement to
68 respond to the clinic if there is a concern that the individual may attempt to
69 harm themselves, others, or leave the facility. When requesting law
70 enforcement response, request for a Critical Incident Team "CIT Trained
71 Officer"
 - 72 iv. Transportation of persons on 5150 hold:
73 Person/agency initiating 5150 hold may transport the person if the person can
74 be transported safely based upon the assessment of the designated mental
75 health professional initiating the hold.

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- v. Document the risk assessment and relevant information in a progress note in the electronic health record (Avatar). Additionally, you may complete a Hot Sheet in Avatar.
- vi. Call the Emergency Department Access/Crisis Team and alert them that there is an individual on a 5150 in-route and provide detailed information about the individual's mental status and need for evaluation. Make sure to note any special considerations such as likelihood to attempt to elope or aggressive behavior.
- vii. For **clinics located at 1441 Constitution Blvd, Bldg 400, Salinas, CA** follow the same steps as above except:
 1. Designate a staff member to contact Natividad Medical Center (NMC) Security (not County Communications) for an escort to the Emergency Department (ED). Only contact County Communications if there is a need for a law enforcement response.
 2. NMC Security will come to the site and escort the patient to the NMC ED.
 3. The authorized 5150 cardholder designee who wrote the 5150 will make a copy of the completed 5150 document and have it scanned in the patient chart
 4. The authorized 5150 cardholder designee who wrote the 5150 will need to also escort the individual to the ED and turn the original 5150 into a Crisis Intervention Specialist.

HOT SHEETS

FAX TO ED ACCESS TEAM AT (831)755-4143 FOR POTENTIAL USERS OF ED ACCESS TEAM SERVICES

Client

Name: _____ **Chart #:** _____ **DOB:** _____

Case

Coordinator: _____ **MD:** _____

Current Problematic Behaviors or Concerns:

Current Living Situation/Support:

Suggestions on Effective Approaches with Client:

Current Stressors:

Suggested Plan of Action:

Diagnosis:

Axis I _____
Axis II _____
Axis III _____

Current Medications (unless faxed):

If hospitalized, contact:

- Conservator _____
- Interim _____
- Family or Significant Other _____
- Caregiver _____
- Case Coordinator _____