
TO: Riverside University Health System; Riverside County Emergency Departments; LPS Designated Facilities; Patients' Rights; 5150 Committee

FROM: LPS 5150 Certification & Oversight

DATE: August 17, 2021

SUBJECT: **Authorization to utilize Telehealth to assess, initiate and interrupt 5150 Involuntary Holds for Persons Authorized by Riverside County**

Assembly Bill (AB) 3242 now allows examinations or assessments under W&I Code sections 5150 and 5151 to be conducted via telehealth Riverside University Health. As a result, Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health now authorizes the ability to assess, initiate and/or interrupt LPS 5150 involuntary holds via Telehealth for persons who are 5150 authorized by Riverside County.

Telehealth refers to the use of two-way, real-time interactive audio and video between a consumer and a staff person (an authorized person in this case) in order to provide mental health services when distance separates participants in different geographic locations.

Authorization to utilize Telehealth to assess, initiate or interrupt 5150 involuntary holds, as mentioned in this memo, is limited to persons with 5150 authorization by Riverside County. Under no circumstance shall persons who lack LPS authorization by Riverside County assess, initiate, or interrupt 5150 involuntary holds via Telehealth.

Persons who utilize Telehealth to assesses and initiate 5150 involuntary holds shall adhere to the following policies and procedures.

Initiation of detention per WIC Sections 5150 and/or 5585 may occur via Telehealth under the following conditions:

- Prior to Telehealth services being used to assess for an involuntary 5150 hold, the authorized person and other treating staff, as appropriate, shall determine that Telehealth services are appropriate for the individual to be assessed based on his/her mental health and medical condition. For example, persons who have delusions and severe paranoia relating to technology may not be good candidates for 5150 assessments via Telehealth services. Authorized persons who conduct a 5150 assessment via Telehealth shall ensure there has been no change in the individual's condition during the Telehealth interview that renders Telehealth evaluation inappropriate under the conditions set forth in this policy.

- Consistent with AB1424, authorized persons utilizing Telehealth to assess and initiate 5150 involuntary holds shall include all applicable information, including collateral information from the family or caregiver in advance of the provision of Telehealth services.
- Documentation that the evaluation was completed through the use of Telehealth services must be entered on the 5150 form in the narrative section that begins with “The above person’s condition was called to my attention under the following circumstances”.
- All other requirements pertaining to 5150/5585 detention are met (e.g. voluntary treatment is unavailable and/or not a viable option).
- A copy of the 5150 form shall be properly completed and signed (electronic signature is permissible) and provided to the designated facility via fax or other HIPAA complaint methods and placed in the individual’s medical record.
- A copy of the 5150 form shall also accompany the individual upon transfer to a LPS designated facility. **Per AB 2099, a copy of the 5150 hold shall be treated as original.**
- A copy of the hold written must be faxed to LPS 5150 Certification & Oversight within (3) business days at (951) 351-8027.
- For any questions or concerns regarding this memo please contact LPS 5150 Certification and Oversight at 5150@ruhealth.org or (951) 358-4544.