PRACTICAL PEARL: MENTAL/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMPLAINTS

| INTRODUCTION | Mental and Behavioral Health (M/BH) urgencies and emergencies are on the rise, creating strain on systems that care for kids with mental and behavioral health needs.  
|             | http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/3/e20161570 |

| INITIAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT BY PRIMARY CARE | M/BH complaints require initial screening for underlying medical illness, physical/sexual abuse, injury related to behaviors, possible intoxication, and risk for imminent self-harm or harm to others. |

| WHEN TO REFER / HOSPITALIZE | Patients who are at imminent risk should be referred to your local emergency services program (ESP). These hotlines are available 24/7 and can help determine if your patient can be seen in the community via mobile team or at a 24/7 walk-in site.  
|                           | ED evaluations are sometimes required, but are more limited in scope and take three times as long.  
|                           | Patients who are not at imminent risk can still be discussed with an ESP.  
|                           | MCPAP program is a great resource for pediatricians. |

| HOW TO REFER | MCPAP: 844-926-2727  
|              | Local Emergency Service Providers:  
|              | - Southern Pioneer Valley: BHN 800-437-5922  
|              | - Northampton: CSO 800-322-0424  
|              | - Greenfield: CSO 800-562-0112  
|              | - Baystate Pedi ED: 413-794-6389 (please ask for attending) |

| WHAT TO EXPECT FROM BAYSTATE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL VISIT | ED Patients will be screened for medical illness that may explain symptoms, abuse, and clinical evidence of intoxication.  
|                                                        | If M/BH concerns place patient at imminent risk of harm, patient will be held in ED for BHN evaluation (average of 11 hours).  
|                                                        | If patient/family can contract for safety, patients will be referred for outpatient evaluation (average of 3 hours). |

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