



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: July 30, 2015
TO: SAMH Regional Directors, Contract Managers, Licensing Specialists and Managing Entities
FROM: Ute Gazioch, Director, Substance Abuse and Mental Health *Ute*
SUBJECT: Revised Definition of Psychiatric Nurse

PURPOSE:

To provide policy guidance to regional staff, Managing Entities, and providers on the revised definition of "psychiatric nurse" as defined in Chapter 2015-111, Laws of Florida.

DISCUSSION:

The new law redefines "psychiatric nurse" to mean an advanced registered nurse practitioner certified under s. 464.012, F.S., (Nurse Practice Act) who has a master's or doctoral degree in psychiatric nursing and holds a national advanced practice certification as a psychiatric mental health advanced practice nurse. The legislation retains the requirement for a psychiatric nurse to have two years of post-master's clinical experience under the supervision of a physician.

The legislation authorizes a psychiatric nurse, who performs within the framework of an established protocol with a psychiatrist, to:

- Examine a patient upon admission to a receiving facility; and
- Approve a patient to be discharged from a receiving facility if the facility is owned or operated by a hospital or health system, provided this action is within the framework of an established protocol with a psychiatrist.

Further, the legislation prohibits a psychiatric nurse from approving a patient to be discharged if an involuntary examination of the patient was initiated by a psychiatrist, unless the discharge is approved by that psychiatrist.

REQUESTED ACTION

The Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health hereby requests that you disseminate this information to bring awareness to this legislation. For more information, you may access the Florida Board of Nursing within the Department of Health at <http://floridasnursing.gov>.

If you have questions, please contact Ashley Schwab at (850) 717-4414, ashley.schwab@myflfamilies.com.

cc: Jane Johnson, Chief of Staff
Regional Managing Directors

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency