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MEMORANDUM

TO: Designated Hospital Group Members

CC: DMH Commissioner's Office
Mourning Fox, Mental Health Services Director
Jaskanwar Batra, Medical Director
Karen Barber, General Counsel

FROM: Emma Harrigan, Quality Management Director

DATE: November 28, 2016

SUBJECT: Updated Designated Hospital Manual and Standards

This memorandum is to inform Designated Hospitals that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) *Designated Hospital Manual and Standards* has been updated to reflect statutory requirements related to advance directives.

Section 2 – Hospital Services Covered Under these Standards has been updated to include statutory language and requirements related to advance directives:

2.4 Advance Directives

Prior to a patient's discharge or release, a hospital shall provide information to a patient in the custody or temporary custody of the Commissioner regarding advance directives, including relevant information developed by the Vermont Ethics Network and Office of the Mental Health Care Ombudsman. Refer to these organizations for more information. The Department of Mental Health also has a protocol outlining hospital requirements regarding Advance Directives (www.mentalhealth.vermont.gov/policy).

Section 3 – Designation Review has been updated to include a review of advance directives under 3.7.1 Patient Rights

(e) Hospitals shall provide patients with information regarding Advance Directives, including relevant information developed by the Vermont Ethics Network and the Mental Healthcare Ombudsman.

As part of hospital designation, DMH will be requesting policies related to advance directives. The required materials document (attached) has been updated to reflect this addition.