

<b>Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Procedure</b>	
<b>Admission of Patients Under the Age of 18</b>	
Revised: X	Date: 04/07/14

Generally, persons under age 18 are not admitted to the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH). Exceptions may be granted by the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and are granted only on a temporary emergency basis.

For all persons under 18 admitted to VPCH, the hospital shall have a plan that:

1. Evaluates the youth's needs at VPCH;
2. Specifies who will be admitted and with what level of supervision;
3. Specifies the individual plan of care for the duration of the youth's stay in the hospital; one-to-one staff-to patient care during waking hours shall be evaluated to assure proper treatment and protection. The procedure does not automatically require that additional staff are needed for a youth, since the treatment plan is determined by the Treatment Team;
4. The length of stay for persons 18 or under shall not exceed five working days unless authorized by the VPCH Chief Executive Officer, except as noted in (5); and
5. Length of stay for youths admitted on an Observation status is determined by the court.

<b>Approved by VPCH Policy Committee</b>	<b>Approval Date: April 7, 2014</b>
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