

Questions

You May Consider Asking

...About What Will Happen While We Are Here:

- What if English is not my first language?
- How will you engage with my child if they are non-verbal and/or they use a specialized communication device?
- Who oversees my child's care? Is this the person I should speak to if I'm concerned about my child's symptoms increasing or if my child is not safe?
- What does "meeting criteria" mean and how does this affect planning for my child?
- What does it mean to be voluntary or involuntary?
- How are you creating a safe space for my child while in the ED?
- Who do I contact at the hospital if I have concerns about the care my child is getting?
- Can I be with my child the whole time my child is here? Who else can visit my child?
- How can I call someone if I don't have a phone or my cell phone isn't working?
- What is the Wi-Fi password for the hospital?
- What items can I bring to comfort my child? Food? Stuffed animals? Music? Toys?
- Who is the attendant sitting outside my child's room and what is their role?
- If I need to leave for a while, who do I tell?
- Who do I ask to speak to if I'm calling to check on my child?
- If I have a community team, how can they connect to my hospital team?

...About Possible Options For My Child:

- If my child stays here at the hospital-what will happen? Who will my child see? Will my child be OK? How long can my child stay here?
- Could medication be helpful for my child? Who can I talk to about this?
- What services and supports can be put in place so my child can safely return home? Who do I need to talk to? What are things that I need to consider? Safety to me and my child and my family is _____ and we need _____.
- If my child can't safely return home immediately what are the choices we have?
 - Where are the crisis beds that may be appropriate for my child?
 - What can the crisis beds offer?
 - How long can my child stay there?
 - Is there a minimum number of days? A maximum number of days?
 - What are the expectations there?
 - Can I visit them or talk to the people there before my child goes there?

People Who Can Help Me

Below is a chart you might find useful as you consider your child's care and needs. These are some of the people you may see, interact with or want to contact while in the Emergency Department. When you talk to people who are caring for your child you may find it helpful to keep notes of what you talked about and when. It is hard to remember details in stressful situations.

Who Can Help?	What is their name and contact information?	When did we talk?	What was said?
Crisis Screener/Emergency Personnel from mental health agency (Designated Agency)			
Hospital Psychiatrist			
My child's nurse			
My child's doctor or primary care physician			
Hospital Social Worker			
Vermont Federation of Families or other support organization			
Hospital Patient Advocate			
Emergency Personnel involved in bringing my child to ED			
My child's therapist or case manager (if applicable)			
My child's school			
Other:			