

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Mental Health Division
Olympia, Washington

To: All Providers
MHD Designees

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Mental Health Division (MHD)

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Subject: Administration of authorization numbers for persons involuntarily detained under RCW 71.05 and/or RCW 71.34.

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify that MHD Designees cannot apply voluntary certification rules to involuntary patients.

Why is this clarification necessary?

It has come to our attention that some MHD designees have been refusing to accept authorization requests for *involuntary* psychiatric hospitalization from hospitals when submitted later than the time frames listed for certification of *voluntary* consumers in the current *Community Psychiatric Inpatient Instructions and Requirements* issued August 1, 2007.

WAC 388-550-2600 sections (4) & (8) do not grant MHD designees the authority to approve or deny requests for initial certification and or retrospective certification of involuntary inpatient stays. They apply specifically to voluntary services.

A petition for detention duly filed by a DMHP under 71.05 or 71.34 provides certification prior to hospitalization; the appropriate MHD designee must give a requesting hospital the appropriate form with an authorization number within the timeframes specified in the *Instructions and Requirements*. The hospital then must follow the time limits for billing published in the *Inpatient Hospital Services* manual section G.1.