Inpatient Hospitalization

In the case that a student-athlete needs to be hospitalized for mental health issues, either the treating mental health provider will recommend that they go to the hospital to be assessed (at the emergency room) or the provider will contact Communicare’s mobile assessment team. The provider may have worked with the student-athlete for a voluntary hospitalization.

There are two different types of inpatient hospitalizations for mental health issues: **voluntary and involuntary hospitalization**.

In the case of a **voluntary hospitalization**, a student-athlete would not necessarily need to go to the emergency room for an assessment. The student-athlete could be transported by an Athletic Trainer to the facility where the student-athlete may be hospitalized and that facility will assess the student-athlete for appropriateness of inpatient hospitalization. This would typically happen if an athlete were to be meeting with a member of our Sport Psychology staff or an outside provider in the Oxford community and the treating provider, having assessed the student-athlete, determined the student-athlete was in need of hospitalization and convinced that student athlete of the need, obtaining their willingness to go voluntarily for hospitalization. This may also be the case if the student-athlete expresses to any athletic staff wither suicidal or homicidal ideation and requests inpatient hospitalization.

The mental health provider will inform the Senior Associate A.D. for Health and Sports Performance (currently Shannon Singletary at 662-816-7493) of the need for hospitalization. The Senior Associate A.D. for Health and Sports Performance and the treating provider will coordinate with the inpatient facility where the student athlete will be treated.

In most cases the Athletic Trainer will need to transport the student-athlete to the facility. The Athletic Trainer must find another person to accompany them and the student-athlete, transports of this nature are never to be done by the Athletic Trainer alone. This additional person could include but is not limited to another athletic trainer, a teammate of the student-athlete, a coach from that student-athlete’s team, or a member of the academic staff.

Typically, a facility will ask that the student-athlete pack a bag with about 5 days of clothing, no belts or drawstrings. While the student athlete goes to pack these things it is important that he or she not be left alone, but is accompanied by a friend, teammate, or staff member.

Facilities where a student athlete may be hospitalized for mental health-related concerns could include but are not limited to:

Parkwood Behavioral Health System

8135 Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654

(800) 477-3422 or (662) 895-4900

OR

Lakeside Behavioral Health System

2911 Brunswick Road, Memphis, TN 38133

901.377.4700  |  1.800.232.LAKE (5253)

In the case that hospitalization is **involuntary** the student athlete should be transported to the emergency room for an evaluation by the hospital’s assessment team. Should the student-athlete refuse to go to the emergency room and it is deemed that they are a threat to themselves or others, the police may be called for assistance. If it is between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm a member of the athletic department staff can go to the Lafayette County Courthouse and file an affidavit with the Chancery Court to have a psychiatric hold enacted. In this case the county sheriff’s department will transport the student-athlete to the inpatient facility.

The hospital’s assessment team may make recommendations about where the student-athlete could be hospitalized. We can request that one of the two facilities listed above be utilized. Should transportation be a concern, Delta Medical Behavioral Health Center in Memphis can transport patients from Oxford to their facility.