



State of Vermont  
Agency of Human Services  
280 State Drive, Center Building  
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

---

# Global Commitment Register

June 14, 2023

---

GCR 23-040  
FINAL

## **Emergency Department Reimbursement for Mental Health Extended Stays**

### **Policy Summary:**

The Vermont Medicaid program made permanent reimbursement to hospitals for extended Emergency Department (ED) stays in which a Vermont Medicaid member meets clinical criteria for inpatient psychiatric level of care and there are no beds available for placement (see [GCR 22-069](#)). Effective May 11, 2023, this per diem rate will be reimbursed at the per diem rate established by the Division of Rate Setting for swing beds. This means the per diem rate will increase from \$200 to \$265.83.

Hospitals may submit an authorization request to the Department of Vermont Health Access when a member meeting criteria exceeds a 24-hour stay in the ED. Reimbursement will not cover the day of admission and the day of discharge from the ED.

### **Effective Date:**

May 11, 2023

### **Authority/Legal Basis:**

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#): Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)]; Special Term and Condition #6.8.

### **Population Affected:**

All Medicaid

### **Fiscal Impact:**

The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$500,000.

### **Public Comment Period:**

The public comment period ended June 7, 2023. No comments were received.

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to [AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov).

**Additional Information:**

Instructions for submitting an authorization request for the per diem rate for mental health extended stays in the Emergency Department can be found on the [Provider Resources page on the Vermont Medicaid Portal](#).

Authorization request forms for this per diem rate can be found on the [Clinical Forms and Prior Authorization Forms page](#) on the Department of Vermont Health Access website.

Additional information for providers be found in the [General Billing and Forms Manual](#) on the Department of Vermont Health Access website.

The following State Plan page was amended:

- Attachment 4.19-B page 2a(1d))

The Medicaid State Plan can be found on the AHS website.