
TO: Riverside County Emergency Departments; LPS Designated Facilities; Patients' Rights; 5150 Committee

FROM: Dr. Andrew Williams, MHS Administrator, LPS 5150 Certification & Oversight

DATE: January 28, 2025

SUBJECT: 5150 Involuntary Holds Transferred to Medical Floors

Effective June 1, 2023, Riverside County has removed the longstanding practice of a 5150 hold becoming null and void once the patient is transferred to a medical floor. This practice was discussed in our County's 5150 Committee for review as there is no law requiring such practice.

After further discussion by the committee, it was agreed upon that effective June 1, 2023 involuntary 5150 holds will remain valid regardless if the patient is moved/admitted from the ED to the medical floor. This new policy was updated in our 5150 Online training as well.

This decision was made to remove unnecessary reassessments of subsequent holds once a hold is null and void and to align with the practice of a 5150 hold remaining valid in emergency departments (EDs) while similarly awaiting transfer for inpatient psychiatric care.

Facilities still may still interrupt an involuntary 5150 hold at any time before transfer to an inpatient facility or due to transfer to the medical floor. This new county policy only clarifies that the involuntary 5150 hold does not "automatically" become null and void due to transfer to medical floor. Facilities may still choose to interrupt or keep the 5150 hold in tact during transfer to a medical floor.

For any questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact Dr. Andrew Williams at andrwilliams@ruhealth.org or (951) 358-4734.