

# PARTNERING WITH ACUTE WHEN A PATIENT IS TOO ILL FOR IP/RES

The ACUTE Center for Eating Disorders & Severe Malnutrition at Denver Health is the only dedicated medical stabilization program in the country with the resources, environment and experience to treat the most medically severe cases of eating disorders.

Once medically stabilized, ACUTE smoothly transitions the patient to the appropriate next level of care, typically with their established eating disorder care team or referring IP/RES program.



Medical stabilization on a private **30-bed telemetry medical unit** at Denver Health Medical Center, a nationally ranked academic medical center



Life-saving medical care covered under **medical insurance**



**Expert, multi-disciplinary care**, led by Philip S. Mehler, MD, FACP, FAED, CEDS



**Air ambulance** transport arrangement when needed

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

- ▶ All gender expressions, 15+ years of age
- ▶ Severe medical complications associated with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, ARFID or as a comorbidity of an infection or from cancer
- ▶ In need of safe detoxification from laxatives, diuretics or self-induced vomiting, to treat/prevent severe edema formation, prior to inpatient or residential treatment
- ▶ At risk for refeeding syndrome
- ▶ Patients experiencing severe weight disruption, with any or all of the following medical issues:
  - Weight less than 70 percent of ideal body weight or BMI < 15
  - Unstable vital signs such as low or irregular heart rates
  - Cardiac disturbances such as abnormal heart rhythms or heart failure
  - Loss of consciousness due to low blood pressure
  - Patients with malnutrition caused by MAI, cancer, HIV or other infections
  - Atypical anorexia nervosa with rapid massive weight loss

## ADMISSION IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED WHEN PATIENTS PRESENT WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- ✓ Serum potassium level < 2.6 mg/dl
- ✓ Serum bicarbonate level  $\geq$  38 mg/dl
- ✓ Serum sodium level < 120 mg/dl
- ✓ Heart Rate < 35 (adults) or < 45 (adolescent)
- ✓ EKG rhythm other than sinus or QTc >500 msec



## COORDINATING PATIENT TRAVEL

Our admissions team facilitates logistics for patient travel needs; including arranging air ambulance transport if needed. We make admitting to ACUTE as simple as possible for the patient.

## AIR AMBULANCE

For patients requiring urgent medical transport, ACUTE partners with elite air ambulance providers to provide bedside-to-bedside transfers on medically configured aircraft to ensure safe, comfortable domestic or international air travel.

## WARM HANDOFF REFERRALS FOR REFERRING PROVIDERS

During an initial assessment of care for admission to IP/RES/PHP/IOP programming, should your admissions team determine that a client is in need of medical stabilization, ACUTE requests that the referring program initiate a 3-way phone call between the referring program, the potential patient and the ACUTE admissions team at: **877.228.8348**. By facilitating the warm handoff via 3-way call:

- The patient has a greater likelihood of seeking and admitting to medical stabilization.
- The ACUTE admissions team can track the referral journey to make sure the patient transitions back to the referring program, once medically stabilized.

**CALL 877-228-8348 TO SPEAK WITH A MEMBER OF THE ACUTE ADMISSIONS TEAM.**



**ACUTE**  
CENTER FOR EATING DISORDERS  
& SEVERE MALNUTRITION  
BY DENVER HEALTH.  
A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

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