

**RCW 71.32.250 Long-term care facility residents—Readmission after inpatient behavioral health treatment—Evaluation, report to legislature. (Effective until January 1, 2025.)** (1) If a principal who is a resident of a long-term care facility is admitted to inpatient behavioral health treatment pursuant to his or her directive, the principal shall be allowed to be readmitted to the same long-term care facility as if his or her inpatient admission had been for a physical condition on the same basis that the principal would be readmitted under state or federal statute or rule when:

(a) The treating facility's professional staff determine that inpatient behavioral health treatment is no longer medically necessary for the resident. The determination shall be made in writing by a psychiatrist, physician assistant working with a supervising psychiatrist, or a psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner, or (i) one physician and a mental health professional or substance use disorder professional; (ii) one physician assistant and a mental health professional or substance use disorder professional; or (iii) one psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner and a mental health professional or substance use disorder professional; or

(b) The person's consent to admission in his or her directive has expired.

(2) (a) If the long-term care facility does not have a bed available at the time of discharge, the treating facility may discharge the resident, in consultation with the resident and agent if any, and in accordance with a medically appropriate discharge plan, to another long-term care facility.

(b) This section shall apply to inpatient behavioral health treatment admission of long-term care facility residents, regardless of whether the admission is directly from a facility, hospital emergency room, or other location.

(c) This section does not restrict the right of the resident to an earlier release from the inpatient treatment facility. This section does not restrict the right of a long-term care facility to initiate transfer or discharge of a resident who is readmitted pursuant to this section, provided that the facility has complied with the laws governing the transfer or discharge of a resident.

(3) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct an evaluation of the operation and impact of this section. The committee shall report its findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2004. [2021 c 287 s 18; 2016 c 155 s 15; 2009 c 217 s 13; 2003 c 283 s 25.]

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(a) The treating facility's professional staff determine that inpatient behavioral health treatment is no longer medically necessary for the resident. The determination shall be made in writing by a psychiatrist, physician assistant working with a psychiatrist who is

acting as a participating physician as defined in RCW 18.71A.010, or a psychiatric \*advanced registered nurse practitioner, or (i) one physician and a mental health professional or substance use disorder professional; (ii) one physician assistant and a mental health professional or substance use disorder professional; or (iii) one psychiatric \*advanced registered nurse practitioner and a mental health professional or substance use disorder professional; or

(b) The person's consent to admission in his or her directive has expired.

(2) (a) If the long-term care facility does not have a bed available at the time of discharge, the treating facility may discharge the resident, in consultation with the resident and agent if any, and in accordance with a medically appropriate discharge plan, to another long-term care facility.

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(3) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall conduct an evaluation of the operation and impact of this section. The committee shall report its findings to the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2004. [2024 c 62 s 25; 2021 c 287 s 18; 2016 c 155 s 15; 2009 c 217 s 13; 2003 c 283 s 25.]

**\*Reviser's note:** The term "advanced registered nurse practitioner" was changed to "advanced practice registered nurse" by 2024 c 239 s 1, effective June 30, 2027.

**Effective date—2024 c 62 ss 1-8, 10-18, 20-26, 28, and 30-32:**  
See note following RCW 18.71A.010.

**Intent—2024 c 62:** See note following RCW 18.71A.020.