

## HHSC Psychiatric Emergency Flow Chart

### Psychiatric Emergency Flow Chart

The Peace Officer may use the following indicators to determine if a medical emergency exists:

- Overdose
  - Acute intoxication with alcohol or drugs
  - Chest pain
  - Fluctuating consciousness
  - Stab wound, bleeding, or serious injury
  - Seizure activity
  - Complications from Diabetes
  - Injured in assault or flight
  - Victim of a sexual assault
  - Person is a resident of a nursing home or assisted living facility.
- Note: With the elderly, sometimes medical problems can cause symptoms that look like mental illness, but are not. It's important to rule out medical problems as the cause.

**\*\*An inpatient facility or a mental health facility is not statutorily authorized to require a peace officer to transport a person in custody under Chapter 573, Health and Safety Code, to a medical facility for a medical evaluation prior to taking that person to the mental health facility.**

The opinion of law enforcement as to whether a medical emergency exists is final in the screening conducted with the Local Mental Health Authority.

See Attorney General Opinion No. GA-0753, dated December 28, 2009, regarding whether a peace officer who has taken a person into custody under Chapter 573 of the Health and Safety Code may be required to transport that individual to a medical facility for evaluation prior to taking that person to a mental health facility.

