

VNA Psychiatric Bridge Program:

Bridging the Gap to Recovery

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Bridge Program Overview

- This is a grant funded program
- Implemented by the VNA through the Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board through Maggie Tolbert, Utilization Review specialist in the clinical division under the direction of Chief William Denihan, CEO
- The program provides immediate interim services for patients following discharge from Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare (state hospital)

Bridge Program Overview

- The program consists of a Psychiatrist and a Mental Health Registered Nurse
- Client profile: uninsured, SCALED - *screening, centralized, assessment, level of care assignment, engagement/linkage to treatment program community mental Health center* to community mental health agency, or a re-admission within 30 days or follow up appointment with community mental health agency is greater than two weeks out
- Resident of Cuyahoga county
- Must have a psychiatric diagnosis or depression with psychotic features and/or suicidal attempt or recurrent depression with low GAF score

Bridge Program Overview

- Pharmacological management, resource access and assistance with linkage to respective community mental health center provided
- Client is able to maintain medication compliance through weekly home visits from Psychiatrist and Nurse through the use of samples and patient assistance programs

Summary

- 50% of all patients admitted to psychiatric hospitals are re-admissions
- 10% are readmitted within a month
- VNA Psychiatric Bridge Program readmission rate for client at NCBHS is between 2% and 7%

"Are readmission rates influenced by
how psychiatric services are organized"
Nord J. Psychiatry 2002