

Texas State Hospitals

Forensic Expedited Admission Process



What is a forensic expedited admission?

An expedited admission (EA) occurs when a person on the forensic state hospital waitlist is moved for clinical reasons to the next available and appropriate bed ahead of others waiting to be admitted for competency restoration services under a Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 46B commitment. The Health and Human Services Commission Chief of Forensic Medicine team judiciously reviews all EA requests based on several factors.

What is the review and determination process for an EA request?

A master's level clinician will accept an EA request from any source, such as court parties, legislative inquiries, local mental health authorities (LMHAs), family or jail staff. When the request is received:

- The clinician obtains a clinical update from the jail and a crisis assessment from the LMHA.
- The clinician reviews and summarizes the information gathered in a formal write-up and submits it along with supporting documentation to the Chief of Forensic Medicine (CFM).
- If the CFM deems there is insufficient clinical information to support an EA, the request will be declined, and a detailed rationale will be provided.
- If the CFM deems there is sufficient clinical information to support an EA, the recommendation to expedite will be sent to the State Hospital Associate Commissioner.
 - The State Hospital Associate Commissioner has final authority to approve or deny EA requests.

When an EA request may be appropriate:

- Persistent clinical deterioration despite adequate psychiatric interventions.
- The person's needs are beyond what the jail can safely provide.

Clinical Considerations*:

- Severity of current psychiatric symptoms.
- Severity of suicidal or homicidal ideation.
- Self-injurious behaviors.
- Level of aggression.
- Inattention to activities of daily living.
- Medical concerns exacerbated due to unstable psychiatric symptoms.

Additional Considerations*:

- Previous attempted interventions.
- A county jail's access to resources.

**These lists include the main areas of focus and are not exhaustive.*

Interventions to Consider Prior to Requesting an EA:

- Adjustment to medications.
- Court-ordered medications.**
- Clinical consultation request.**
- Consulting with an LMHA on behavioral or therapeutic interventions.

***Email the HHSC Forensic Team at Forensics@hhs.texas.gov to request more information.*