

CASE STUDY 2 - Santiago

68 year-old male receiving outpatient psychiatric therapy. During outpatient session patient expresses suicidal ideation and plan, with increased stress due to holiday season fears that family will not invite him to join.

Scenario #1. 1230 on Day 1 - Court order received for 72 hour hold. Reasons indicated on hold – danger to self and patient intends to cut wrists when he leaves outpatient program due to severe depression.

What is the correct placement decision for this case -- inpatient, outpatient, outpatient with observation services, or discharge?

Inpatient – Court order for 72 hour stay supports hospital care that will span two midnights.

Scenario #2. Patient has no acute issues during the hospital stay and is compliant with his treatment plan. He tolerates an increase in his Abilify, buspirone and Lamictal without any adverse effects. After an overnight stay and observation in the inpatient unit, the patient's symptoms resolved and he redevelops future orientation and self-advocacy. Patient expresses a desire to be discharged to resume his outpatient level of care. He is no longer feeling suicidal and has no plan or intent to harm himself and he is discharge at 1915 on Day 2

What is the correct placement decision for this case -- inpatient, outpatient, outpatient with observation services, or discharge?

Inpatient – This stay remains an inpatient stay despite being shorter than 2 midnights. This represents an unexpected recovery.