Psychiatry Bridge Clinic

Cincinnati Children’s Psychiatric Intake Response Center (PIRC) has launched the PIRC Bridge Clinic across many Cincinnati Children’s locations. This is a psychiatric crisis clinic that can rapidly evaluate a pediatric patient—especially when a psychiatric inpatient admission may not be necessary. The Bridge Clinic seeks to:

· Bypass the emergency room for acute and subacute psychiatric evaluations
· Improve rapid access to psychiatric crisis specialists
· Improve communication and consultation with primary care providers
· Connect families to appropriate level of psychiatric care

Accessing PIRC Bridge Clinic

STEP 1: If an urgent mental health crisis is identified, first call the patient’s current mental health provider.

STEP 2: If they do not have a mental health provider or there is a delay in care/access, call PIRC at 513-636-4124 and press # # to be connected with one of our triage staff.

STEP 3: PIRC triage staff will review with you the patient’s crisis concerns: suicidality, homicidality, unclear intent behind self-harm and other risk factors.

STEP 4: You may request consultation with any of the following interventions:

· Discuss safety assessment and crisis management planning
· Schedule a Bridge appointment within 2 days for urgent psychiatry evaluation
· Schedule an immediate Bridge appointment or to facilitate referral to ED, if indicated

PIRC Bridge Clinic Outpatient Appointment

Your patient will meet with a licensed independent social worker or clinical counselor to:

· Identify the problem(s) and precipitants/triggers leading to current crisis
· Develop crisis management plan, including safety and coping strategies
· Coordinate the patient with a mental health provider to meet their needs
· Provide support until first outpatient visit with on-going mental health provider

Criteria for Bridge Appointment

· Patient able to communicate and participate in outpatient visit
· Caregiver able to transport patient safely and able to participate in outpatient visit
· No indication for medical intervention (i.e., suicidal behavior in last 24 hours, intoxication or sudden change mental status)