



# RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

*Jerry A. Wengerd, Director*

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**TO:** All Non-Designated Facility Psychiatrists

**FROM:** Andrew Williams, MHSS Program Manager, Quality Improvement- Inpt

**DATE:** September 1, 2015

**SUBJECT: Interruption of Involuntary Holds via Telepsychiatry**

Riverside County Department of Mental Health (RCDMH) has modified Policy #221- "Interrupting 5150 Applications Prior to Arrival at a Designated Facility" to include the use of telepsychiatry for non-designated facilities.

Non-designated facilities such as community hospitals and/or emergency departments may utilize telepsychiatry in the interruption of a pre-admission 5150. In such cases, the psychiatrist must be California-licensed and have completed the RCDMH online training on interrupting holds. In addition, the telepsychiatry technology must allow for a real time, "face to face" evaluation to determine possible interruption.

The online training is approximately (10) minutes in length and available on our department website <http://www.rcdmh.org/> by clicking the link at the top of the website, "Doing Business", then clicking "RCDMH Inpatient Provider Manual." The link for the "Online Training- Interruption of Involuntary Holds via Telepsychiatry" is located on that webpage in addition to Policy #221 and other resources related to 5150 authorization.

Once the psychiatrist completes the 10-minute online training he/she must complete and sign the enclosed "Application & Acknowledgment Form - Interruption of 5150 via Telepsychiatry" and fax the document to QI Inpatient at (951) 358-5038. Upon receipt and review, QI Inpt will email the applicant a copy of the application confirming authorization has been granted.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this memorandum, feel free to email me at [alwilliams@rcmhd.org](mailto:alwilliams@rcmhd.org) or via phone at (951) 358-4734.

Sincerely,

Andrew Williams, Psy.D  
MHSS Program Manager  
Quality Improvement Inpt

CC: RCDMH Executive Team