

Massachusetts Policy Story

The Directors of an adolescent inpatient service in MA and an adult inpatient program in NYC recognized that most behavioral emergencies do not last the duration of the physician's maximum order for restraint and/or seclusion and made the decision to reduce the maximum order fifty percent, surpassing the accrediting body and state regulation requirements. Similarly, during their 17 year process of eliminating the use of restraint and seclusion, the state of Pennsylvania changed their relevant regulations three times. Currently the maximum order for restraint/seclusion is 15 minutes.