

Hospital Exception and Delegation Request

August 21, 2025

What: Seeking the DCT Executive Board's approval to add up to ten civilly committed patients per calendar year waiting in community hospitals to the DCT priority admissions wait list per [Minnesota Session Law 2025, chapter 9, article 5, section 12.](#) .

DIRECTION FOR LIMITED EXCEPTION FOR ADMISSIONS FROM HOSPITAL SETTINGS.

(a) The commissioner of human services or a designee must immediately approve an exception to add up to ten patients per fiscal year who have been civilly committed and are in hospital settings to the admission wait list for medically appropriate direct care and treatment beds under Minnesota Statutes, section 253B.10, subdivision 1, paragraph (b).

(b) The Direct Care and Treatment executive board is subject to the requirement under paragraph (a) upon and after the transfer of duties on July 1, 2025, from the commissioner of human services to the executive board under Minnesota Statutes, section 246C.04.

(c) This section expires June 30, 2027.

Background for the Request: In 2024, the Legislature approved the same language following a recommendation from the Priority Admissions Task Force. Over the year, hospitalized patients seeking admission were reviewed by DCT medical directors, given a priority status if appropriate based on admissions criteria for referrals waiting in jails and admitted to DCT without heightened legal risk. All ten hospital exception admissions were used between September 2024 and April 2025. Ten unique hospitals were assisted in the process. In one such case, a patient had complex behavioral challenges, requiring one hospital to cap its census at seven, rather than fourteen, to serve this patient. This was seen as helpful for hospitals and was championed by the Minnesota Hospital Association. The Priority Admissions Review Panel (formerly Task Force) endorsed this exception to continue through the biennium.

Request: The Executive Medical Director's office requests that the Board immediately approve the exception for up to 10 civilly committed patients to be prioritized for admission to DCT from community hospitals, and we request that the approval be retroactive. We further request that the admissions decisions be delegated to DCT medical directors to allow for medical oversight and responsiveness to requests as they arise.