Referrals to a Higher Level of Care

| Consider a higher level of care when out-patient care is not sufficient | Adolescent has not been able to make or sustain behavior change with outpatient treatment alone Home environment is not conducive to reducing use/abstaining (triggers present in environment, peer group or family member with active substance use preventing reduction of use/abstinence) Adolescent needs greater containment of substance use for safety (sneaking out of the house, breaking into medication supplies, etc.) |
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| Explain the levels of care that are available for adolescents in the community | Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP): Typically, 2-3 hours per day, 3-5 days per week. May be able to be done while patient remains in school. Partial Hospital Program (PHP): Typically, 5-8 hours per day, 4-5 days per week. More intensive than an IOP but the patient does not reside at the program during course of care. Acute Residential Treatment (ART)/Community-Base Acute Treatment (CBAT): Typically, 2-3 weeks, generally used for stabilization; Some programs may provide medical management for withdrawal and/or treat co-occurring mental health disorders. Residential Treatment: 30-90 day residential program which provides structure and ongoing support for developing long-term sobriety |
| Determine if patients and family are willing to accept placement | Adolescents who are willing to enter substance use treatment programs have the most options available to them. If the patient agrees to a lower level of care than recommended, consider this a first step. Level of care can be adjusted if patient struggles to establish stable recovery. Most programs will not accept involuntary patients. Caregivers may pursue options such as filing "Child Requiring Assistance" petition with their local court request assistance with supervision of their child including requiring participation in treatment. |
| Keep in contact with the patient in the interim | Patients may wait days to weeks for a bed in an appropriate treatment program. The medical home can remain in contact with patients in the interim to manage medications and continue to support patient and caregiver. |







