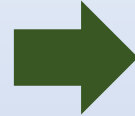# How to Document **Professional Observation** for **Behavioral Health Patients**
(**BH Patient Boarding in the ED or Prolonged Psych Evaluation**)

1st Attending initiates Professional Obs for BH
❖ Document in MDM of the H&P

➡

Required Documentation to Initiate Professional Observation for BH patients (free text .edobs or type ed obs in smart text box)
- ❑ Choose **ED Diagnostic Observation** and complete the documentation below
  - ❑ "Place patient in Obs Status" (this language is included in the smart phrase)
  - ❑ Family Hx *** (Need for higher level Observation codes)
  - ❑ Initial Observation Assessment *** timed & signed (refer to H&P is acceptable)

Day Shift Attending on each Subsequent Day
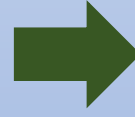❖ Document in ED Course or Blank ED Update Note
❖ Needs to be done **daily**

➡

Required Documentation for Reassessment of Professional Observation for BH patients
(type ed obs in smart text box or free text .edobs)
Choose ED Diagnostic Observation Reassessment
- ❑ Note must include at least 1 HPI and 2 Exam elements

Caveat - 1st Attending did not initiate BH Obs & documentation is missing. **Attending who assumes S/O should initiate BH Obs rather than documenting a reassessment**
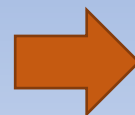❖ Document in Blank ED Update Note

➡

Provider assuming sign out
- ❑ Document initiation of Obs in a Blank ED Update Note using above phrases
- ❑ "Place patient in Obs Status" (this language is included in the smart phrase)
- ❑ Time documented should not be retrospective, BH Obs begins when you initiate it
- ❑ Initial assessment can state refer to H&P from original provider

Attending **Discharging** from BH Obs
❖ Document in ED Course or Blank ED Update Note

➡

Required Documentation for Discharging Provider of BH Observation
(type ed obs in smart text box or free text .edobs)
- ❑ Choose ED Diagnostic Observation Discharge
- ❑ Brief Observation Discharge note including time of discharge
- ❑ EMTALA form

1