

Q: Who qualifies for BH Observation?

A: A BH patient who will board in the ED or require a prolonged behavioral health evaluation.

Q: When should I begin the Observation?

A: As soon as it becomes apparent that the patient will require a prolonged evaluation or at the time you're notified the patient will need to board in the ED.

Q: Where do I find the BH Observation templates in EPIC?

A: In the *Smart Text Lookup* type ED Obs. You need a space between the two words. It will allow you to choose either the obs initiation, reassessment or discharge template.

Q: Can I use the dot phrase .edobs?

A: Yes, but the dot phrase inputs a single template that includes the observation initiation, reassessment and discharge documentation. You will need to erase what's not needed.

Q: Where in EPIC should I add the respective observation documentation?

A: If you're initiating the observation you can add the template to your MDM. If you are assuming sign out on a patient in observation you can either put the required documentation in the ED course or in a Blank ED Update Note.

Q: What do I need to document to initiate Professional Obs for a BH patients?

A: You need the statement "Place in Obs Status". This is part of the smartphrase and NOT an EPIC order. You also need a FHx and an initial assessment (** you can state refer to H&P).

Q: What do I do if the 1st attending forgot to place the patient in BH Obs?

A: The attending assuming sign out can initiate the observation using the ED course or Blank ED Update Note. For the initial exam you can state, "refer to H&P". It's essential however that the provider include the statement "order to place the patient in observation status" as well as indicate the current date and time. This is NOT an actual order, rather it is part of the smartphrase.

Q: What do I need to document when performing a reassessment?

A: You should include at least 1 HPI element and 2 PE elements. Also comment on significant events.

Q: What is needed when discharging a patient from BH Observation?

A: You need a brief reassessment and a notation of the time that the observation status ended.

Q: Is the documentation for BH Observation different than Professional Observation?

A: No, all the documentation requirements are the same. BH Observation however may span several calendar days necessitating reassessments for subsequent observation days.

Q: What happens if I forget to document the subsequent obs day or the discharge note?

A: You will receive a query asking you to create a Blank ED Update Note with the necessary documentation. Please indicate the appropriate date and time in your response.