

**225.15 Examination and treatment.**

1. When a respondent arrives at the state psychiatric hospital, the admitting physician, or a physician assistant who meets the qualifications set forth in the definition of a mental health professional in [section 228.1](#), shall examine the respondent and determine whether or not, in the physician's or physician assistant's judgment, the respondent is a fit subject for observation, treatment, and hospital care. If, upon examination, the physician or physician assistant who meets the qualifications set forth in the definition of a mental health professional in [section 228.1](#) decides that the respondent should be admitted to the hospital, the respondent shall be provided a proper bed in the hospital. The physician or physician assistant who meets the qualifications set forth in the definition of a mental health professional in [section 228.1](#) who has charge of the respondent shall proceed with observation, medical treatment, and hospital care as in the physician's or physician assistant's judgment are proper and necessary, in compliance with [sections 229.13, 229.14, this section](#), and [section 229.16](#). After the respondent's admission, the observation, medical treatment, and hospital care of the respondent may be provided by a mental health professional, as defined in [section 228.1](#), who is licensed as a physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.

2. A proper and competent nurse shall also be assigned to look after and care for the respondent during observation, treatment, and care. Observation, treatment, and hospital care under [this section](#) which are payable in whole or in part by a county shall only be provided as determined through the regional administrator for the respondent's county of residence.

[C24, 27, 31, 35, §3969; C39, §3482.15; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §225.15] 96 Acts, ch 1183, §10; 2004 Acts, ch 1090, §33; 2012 Acts, ch 1120, §55; 2015 Acts, ch 69, §24; 2016 Acts, ch 1073, §70; 2021 Acts, ch 80, §115; 2022 Acts, ch 1066, §26

Referred to in [§225.16, 225.17](#)

For future amendment to this section, effective July 1, 2025, see 2024 Acts, ch 1161, §59, 137