



**Partial Hospital Program**  
**School Staffing Supplement**

## **Important Introduction:**

PrairieCare operates the largest and most comprehensive network of psychiatric Partial Hospital Programs (PHP) in the Midwest. The goal of PHP is to provide intensive and specialized psychiatrist assessment and stabilization. PrairieCare has developed a cutting-edge psychiatric medical model that is accredited by the Joint Commission and is a University of Minnesota Medical School Affiliate.

PrairieCare's Partial Hospital Programs provide individualized care that can help children, adolescents, and families in crisis. Admission to PHP typically happens within 2 to 5 days of the initial Needs Assessment and payment is authorized by insurance plans. Treatment typically lasts between 3 and 5 weeks, dictated by progress on treatment goals and necessity of intensive care. The PrairieCare treatment team consists of: Psychiatrists, Therapists, Social Workers, Nurses, Activity Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Classroom Teachers.

PrairieCare has partnered with Intermediate District 287 to provide the educational services while patients are in PHP. Upon admission patients are temporarily enrolled in District 287 while curriculum and instruction are provided by licensed teachers through District 287. *PrairieCare manages the clinical treatment plan and District 287 manages the academic instruction.* While in PHP each patient's health information remains protected through HIPAA and educational information is protected through FERPA. Releases of Information (ROI) are requested upon admission so pertinent information can be shared among parties. However, information can only be shared when explicitly authorized by the parent/guardian.

It is commonly expected that patients will require continued and ongoing support after discharge from PHP. The goal of PHP is to help patients acquire the stability necessary for further growth and healing.

## **PrairieCare Mission Statement:**

**To provide every individual patient the psychiatric care they truly need.**

## **Intermediate District 287 Mission Statement:**

**To be the premier provider of innovative specialized services to ensure that each member district can meet the unique learning needs of its students.**

## **Purpose of School Staffing:**

The School Staffing is designed to help patient's successfully transition from PHP back to the school environment. District 287 staff will provide educational updates necessary for a successful academic transition. PrairieCare staff will provide necessary and pertinent clinical information necessary for a successful social/environmental transition.

During the School Staffing progress on treatment goals will be reviewed as well as recommendations for continued care. The classroom teacher will provide recommendations for academic success while PrairieCare staff will discuss strategies for symptom management.

## **School Staffing Team:**

- 1) Patient (when appropriate)
- 2) Parents/Guardians
- 3) Home School Staff
- 4) District 287 Classroom Staff
- 5) PrairieCare Staff



## **Outcomes:**

The School Staffing Team can expect that all pertinent information necessary for a transition back to school is evaluated and that decisions are mutually agreed upon in consideration of the "Staff and Family Collaboration". Team members should follow-through with recommendations. Patient's entering PHP often face challenges that may exist after treatment, but should expect stabilization from the treatment program so ongoing growth and healing can occur.

## **Medications and Clinical Diagnosis:**

Both the use of certain medications and clear assessment of clinical diagnosis are critical to successful treatment. However, both are considered privileged information and can only be discussed when necessary and authorized by the parent/guardian. When shared, this information is always kept private among participating parties. This information should not be discussed or evaluated outside of one's clinical scope of practice.

## **Staff and Family Collaboration (“Team Accord”):**

To ensure a successful School Staffing a collective and mutual understanding and respect for roles needs to exist among the team. Each member of the School Staffing team brings to the table specialized knowledge and a shared purpose for the School Staffing. This “Team Accord” will allow for a constructive and successful meeting that will optimize a successful transition back to school.

### **Recognizing Parents’ Wisdom**

We must recognize and respect that parental/guardian rights and judgment ultimately govern treatment decisions for child and adolescent patients. We view our recommendations to you as fundamentally collaborative in nature. In the same way that we work together as a team of doctors, nurses and therapists to integrate multiple perspectives into a comprehensive diagnosis and treatment plan, we collaborate with parents and guardians to agree on a plan that will be most beneficial for their child.

### **Respecting Educational Expertise**

Minnesota’s teachers and school administrators lead the country in providing the most up-to-date and specialized learning strategies to accommodate the needs of our students. They possess an educational perspective that allows them to understand the most successful approaches to learning both on an individual and whole student-body basis. These experts will have the best knowledge and ideas of accommodations that can be made to help our patient’s succeed. They understand the fundamental elements necessary for academic and social success in school.

### **Protecting the Patient-Clinician Relationship**

PrairieCare practitioners practice evidence-based treatment approaches geared towards stabilization and assessment of psychiatric conditions. These interventions are often short-term, yet intensive, and applied in a controlled treatment environment under medical supervision. Often times these approaches are not easily translatable to a school environment without modifications. Patients and families may participate in therapeutic exercise with staff that they may not choose to discuss outside of PrairieCare, or may not be appropriate to share. In these events, it is important to respect their wish for privacy.

## What is the difference between Day Treatment and Partial Hospitalization?

**Day Treatment and Partial Hospitalization, or Partial Hospital Program (PHP)** have often been confused with one another. Both programs are designed to treat individuals for mental health reasons in a structured group day setting. However, there are vast differences in these distinct levels of care.

	Partial Hospitalization	Day Treatment
<b>Affiliation</b>	Hospital	Mental Health Center or School
<b>Treatment goals</b>	Crisis stabilization, medical assessment	Behavioral intervention and stabilization
<b>Typical Patient profile</b>	Major depression, acute anxiety, PTSD, BI-polar disorder, suicidality, psychosis	Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED), Emotional or Behavioral Disorders (EBD)
<b>Admission process</b>	Physician order	Treatment team evaluation
<b>Program Staff</b>	Physicians, Nurses, Therapists, Social workers	Teachers, Social Workers, Therapists
<b>Treatment Methods</b>	Medication management, psychotherapy, group therapy, psychoeducation	Skills training, group therapy, social skills, classroom education
<b>Length of Stay</b>	3-6 weeks	6-10 months
<b>Schedule (approx)</b>	1/4 school, 3/4 treatment	1/2 school, 1/2 treatment
<b>Reimbursement</b>	Medicaid, private insurance, HMO's	Medicaid, public funding

A **Partial Hospital Program** is designed to treat a wide variety of psychiatric conditions in an **acute care medical setting** which can often be used for crisis stabilization and thorough psychological assessment. An admission to PHP takes place through a structured assessment which is reviewed by a psychiatrist for approval. Due to the acuity of patients requiring PHP, an admission can often be facilitated in a matter of 2-4 hours as the patient may potentially be at-risk for harm or rapid decomposition if not treated quickly. In the PHP setting, a patient may receive care for anywhere from 3-6 weeks up to 7 days a week during the daytime hours. Care is provided by psychiatrists, nurses, therapists and social workers. An educational component is also offered during the PHP day. Once treatment PHP is completed, the individual transitions back to their regular setting.

A **Day Treatment program** is often designed as an **alternative daytime placement** for an individual struggling in the daily mainstream

setting. Referrals are usually generated by mental health professionals in collaboration with the special education team. A referral to a Day Treatment program is triggered once an attempt at a less restrictive environment is unsuccessful. The referral may take 2-4 weeks to determine the best placement and changes to an individualized education plan (IEP) can be made. The individual's casemanager and the program director facilitate the treatment delivered by social workers, therapists and educators. The focus of a day treatment setting is usually on behavioral stabilization through skills training, modeling, and education. An individual may be in a day treatment setting for 6 – 10 months at a time and is often in lieu of their regular school placement.

The primary difference between PHP and Day Treatment programs is that **PHP provides hospital based treatment in severe cases under the care of psychiatrists** and nursing staff. Day Treatment programs are commonly a community based wraparound service integrated within the educational system. Empirical data conducted through nation-wide research shows hospital levels of psychiatric care as a vital component to fully developed system of care.

There are a variety of types of "Centers for Care and Treatment" as defined through Minnesota statutes and rules. Each has their own purpose in the system of care and own distinct set of rules and regulations that guide treatment goals and program requirements.

Centers for Care and Treatment		
Department of Human Services (DHS)	Department of Corrections (DOC)	MN Dept of Health / Other
Residential Substance Abuse Programs Nursing Facilities Community Mental Health	Residential Substance Abuse Programs	Hospital ★ Partial Hospital Program Intensive Outpatient Homeless Shelters
Children's Therapeutic Support Services (CTSS)		
★ Day Treatment programs Mental Health programs Skills training		