

# Secure Withdrawal Management and Stabilization (SWMS) facility

## Overview

A Secure Withdrawal Management and Stabilization (SWMS) facility is operated by either a public or private agency or by the program of an agency which provides care to voluntary individuals and individuals involuntarily detained and committed under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.05, or RCW 71.34 for whom there is a likelihood of serious harm or who are gravely disabled due to the presence of a substance use disorder (SUD).

As of 2018, Designated Crisis Responders have had the authority to detain a person for involuntary SUD treatment to a SWMS facility.

## Services

Level of care varies depending on the acuity of the SUD presentation, and the needs of the individual. Each facility must provide the following:

- Assessment and treatment by certified SUD professionals or co-occurring disorder specialists; Clinical stabilization services;
- Acute or subacute detoxification services for intoxicated individuals;
- Discharge assistance by SUD professionals or co-occurring disorder specialists.

Involuntary length of stay at a SWMS is an initial 72 hours, with a possible 14-day detention. Starting January 1, 2021, initial detention will be increased to 120 hours.

During State Fiscal Year 2020, SWMS facilities had 1,271 admissions, with a total of 1,063 individual clients served. Some clients receive multiple admissions due to multiple Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) detentions, or voluntary admissions for SUD treatment.

## Statewide bed capacity

Washington State has a total of 61 SWMS beds, as of June 30, 2020. Lewis county has 21 SWMS beds;

Spokane county has 24 SWMS beds; King county has 16 SWMS beds. Total capacity is expected to grow by at least 16 beds per year. As of June 30, 2020, there are no beds for youth 17 years old or younger. Each facility is licensed by the Department of Health (DOH).

In 2021, two new SWMS facilities are expected to open: one in Clark county with 20 adult SWMS beds; and, the first youth SWMS facility will open in Spokane County with 16 youth SWMS beds.

## Eligibility requirements

Any individual who meets criteria for detention under the ITA with SUD as the primary reason for detention.

## Authority

Adult:

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.05  
Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-341-1104

Youth:

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.34  
Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-341-1106

## Budget

Rate, as of June 30, 2020, is \$650 per individual per day billed to the individual's insurance provider or regional Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization. This rate does not include room and board. HCA can be billed for individuals who meet Fee-For-Service requirements.

## Oversight

HCA, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. DOH certification and licensure are required.

## For more information:

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