

Behavioral health crisis

Behavioral health patient volumes are surging, and families are turning to the ED as a last resort.

Patients waiting for mental health services often experience 'psychiatric boarding' and can be held for hours or days in a secure but empty room.

- 77% decrease in inpatient psychiatric beds (1976-2014)
- 51% increase in ED visits for suicide attempts for teen girls in early 2021 compared with 2020
- **30% increase** in ED Length of Stay for patients waiting for inpatient care (2009-2015)
- Behavioral health ranked #4 on the ACHE list of hospital CEO's top concerns (2021)



Key outcome measure goals





Assist with de-escalation

Multi-sensorial environments can help reduce patient anxiety during challenging moments



Decrease medication / restraints

Mitigating the usage of medication and restraint can positively impact care outcomes



Improve communication

Reduce anxiety for patients and families by creating new caregiver engagement platforms



Decrease length of stay

Moving patients expeditiously through the ED is critical to the stability of the hospital

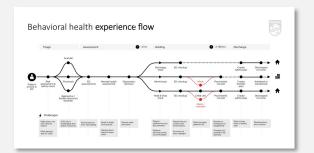
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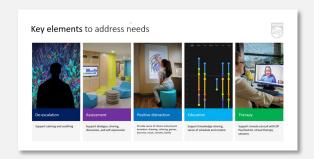
User-led innovation

We went on site to understand the urgent needs of behavioral health patients, family and staff in the ED. An opportunity space was defined using the following methods:

- On site qualitative research
- Experience flow mapping
- Clinician / patient / parent interviews
- Patient typology mapping













Testing our hypothesis

Together with users, we created a concept for an adaptive, yet safe emergency room environment based on key insights. Key activities included:

- Collaborating with Recornect, provider of specialized behavioral health touchscreens
- Creating physical mock-up on site to gather feedback and input from clinicians, patients and stakeholders
- Exploring new behavioral health theme content





Co-creating content

Custom projection content was co-developed with the clinical care team to help calm and guide behavioral health patients.

Embedded therapeutic elements like a 'breathing star' are designed to help patients practice de-escalation techniques.













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Continuous improvement

An ongoing QR-code room survey provides realtime ongoing feedback from patients, families and staff, allowing the team to:

- Identify issues to troubleshoot or areas of required improvement
- De-risk design & workflow assumptions
- Understand preferences on new features as input for future development









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QR code posted in pilot rooms

Online survey

