

Woodhull expands psych ED

NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull will open its new comprehensive psychiatric emergency program to patients today.

The \$250,000 renovation more than doubles the size of its former department to 9,267 square feet. The department has six observation beds, up from three, and can accommodate a greater number of therapists.

The health system expects to treat about 550 patients a month there. "The new space is a much better way to manage, treat and follow up with patients presenting with psychiatric emergencies," Dr. Leonel Urcuyo, Woodhull's chief of psychiatry, said in a statement.

Patients can be treated in the emergency unit for up to 72 hours, in some cases avoiding costly hospitalizations.

Woodhull's emergency department has served as the [epicenter for the treatment](#) of mass overdoses involving people using synthetic marijuana, or K2. This month five men were taken to the hospital. There were similar incidents in the neighborhood in May and July 2016. —J.L.