

NYU Langone plans \$7M psych emergency room in Brooklyn

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NYU Langone is planning to build a new psychiatric emergency program at its Sunset Park hospital amid a state-led effort to increase treatment capacity for individuals in the throes of mental health crises.

The Brooklyn hospital has mapped out a \$7 million comprehensive psychiatric emergency program, commonly known as a CPEP, to replace its current psychiatric ED, according to a certificate-of-need application filed to the Department of Health last week. The planned 3,200-square-foot facility, funded by the Office of Mental Health, will enhance staffing of psychiatrists, nurse practitioners and technicians and quadruple its psychiatric emergency capacity.

The CPEP will replace the four-bed psychiatric ED, which currently sits in the general emergency room, and significantly increase available beds, said Dr. W. Gordon Frankle, chief of psychiatry at NYU Langone – Brooklyn. Psychiatrists in the emergency room see between eight to 12 patients with

mental health conditions per day – a “substantial” volume that Frankle expects to remain steady or grow in the coming years.

Plans for the new program include 12 beds for patients with acute mental illnesses and five for extended observation, a dedicated space where patients can stay for up to three days for further monitoring before they are either discharged or admitted to inpatient care.

An increasing number of hospitals statewide have built CPEPs to serve as an entry point into the behavioral health treatment system. The state authorized the model in 1989 to ease overcrowding in general emergency rooms, where most people went for emergency mental health services. The state’s 23 operating CPEPs provide round-the-clock emergency services such as crisis intervention and extended psychiatric assessment, and the longer-term observation model allows hospitals more time to plan before immediately admitting a psych patient or referring them to outpatient care.

The state has ramped up funding for psychiatric emergency rooms as a part of its efforts to fill gaps in crisis services for people with serious mental illnesses. As a part of her \$1 billion mental health plan, Gov. Kathy Hochul last year [allocated \\$39.1 million](#) to build nine psychiatric emergency rooms at hospitals across the state, including NYU Langone. The state will provide \$5 million in capital funds and \$1 million to cover operating costs for the Brooklyn Hospital’s emergency program, according to the Office of Mental Health.

The governor’s allocation will bring the state’s total count of psychiatric emergency programs to 31 once the new facilities are completed, the governor’s office said in a press release last year. NYU Langone plans to begin construction on its new facility during the last quarter of this year.