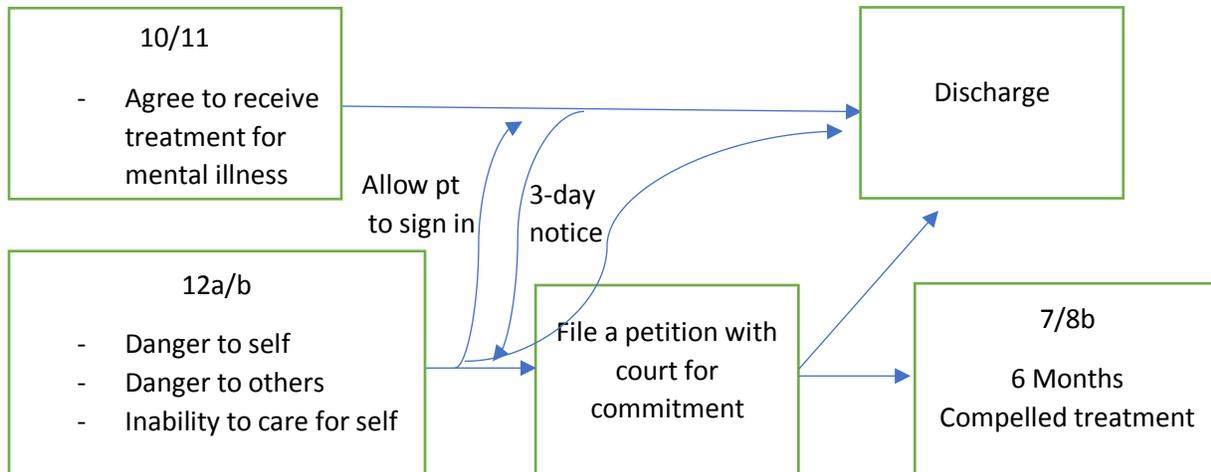


Legal Status

Approach: Draw out the pathways as you work your way through them. Below I offer questions you can ask your learners to use as prompts to move through each step. The suggest dialogue comes first in each bullet point, then the action or answer is in parentheses.

Hook: In psychiatry, we have a special power: we can force people into treatment against their will. This is tremendously powerful, and a responsibility we take very seriously. It is incredibly important to know the details and rules about how this works, which is different in every state.



- There are two ways to come onto a locked psychiatric unit in Massachusetts, do you know what they are? *(Draw boxes for CV/12)*
- What are the criteria for each? *(Review section 12 and CV criteria, can show them here)*
- The voluntary pathway is mostly straight forward. You agree to receive treatment, you and the team work together to determine a discharge date *(Draw arrow to discharge box)*
- Let's skip down to the involuntary pathway. *Can bring out the section 12 and review it here if you have time, can talk about 12a vs 12b (A gets an eval done, B makes the admission valid).*
- How long does a section 12 allow you to hold someone for in Massachusetts? Ok so if a person comes the hospital at 2pm on a Thursday, when does that end? *(Answer: End of Business -5pm – on the following Tuesday).* And what happens at the end of those 3 business days? *(Draw the arrow for discharge, arrow for allowing patient to sign in, arrow for file for commitment)*
- What does it mean to file for commitment? Talk about filing a treatment plan (8b) with various medication/ECT options.
- What happens at a court hearing, what are the judge's options? *(Either commit or discharge)*
- How long is commitment for? *(6 months).* What happens if a patient is compelled to take meds, or do ECT, but refuses *(restraint)*
- What happens if someone signs into the hospital but then changes their mind about being there? *(draw 3 day letter arrow)*
- If you have time, talk about the 'dead zone' someone who signs in, but doesn't want to take meds, but is too sick to be discharged. Can't compel tx. The way out = 3 day