San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital is located at 3853 Rosecrans Street. It is next to the County’s Health Services Complex. It is just west of Rosecrans and Pacific Highway, near San Diego’s Old Town.

Bus Routes 8, 9, 28, and 35 serve the hospital directly, and stop near the corner of Kurtz and Rosecrans, in front of the Hospital.

You can also catch the trolley to the Old Town Trolley Station, which will leave you a block away from the hospital.

Call (619) 233-3004 or (619) 685-4900 for more information about Bus Route & Trolley services.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS
San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (619) 692-8232
(Monday-Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm)
Emergency Psych Unit, Unit A (619) 692-8222
Crisis Recovery Unit, Unit C (619) 692-8225
Crisis Recovery Unit, Unit D (619) 692-8227
HHSA Pharmacy
(619) 692-5740
(Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:20pm)
Financial Eligibility Worker (619) 692-5612
Patient Advocate (619) 282-1134
and (800) 479-2233

ACCESS & CRISIS LINE (after hours & weekends)
From County Toll areas .................................. (888) 724-7240
TDD for the hearing impaired............. (619) 641-6992
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOSPITAL

The San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (SDCPH) is a publicly funded, free-standing psychiatric hospital. It is a locked facility and a component of the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services’ continuum of care. The mission of the Hospital is to provide psychiatric evaluation and crisis intervention-oriented acute treatment for adult residents of San Diego County. The goal of the Hospital is to help patients deal with a mental health crisis, become stabilized, and move ahead to a less restrictive level of care.

HOSPITAL OVERVIEW

ADMISSION

Persons may be admitted on either a voluntary or involuntary basis. Admission to the hospital is based on the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, a California state law regulating involuntary psychiatric detention. To be admitted to inpatient services, an evaluating Psychiatrist determines hospital care is needed based on the clinical presentation by the individual and the presence of a psychiatric diagnosis. This includes but is not limited to individuals who are at risk for being a danger to self, danger to others, or gravely disabled (unable to provide for one’s own food, clothing, or shelter due to a mental disorder). Patients admitted on a voluntary basis must meet the same criteria.

Decisions about admission are made in the Emergency Psychiatric Unit of the Hospital by board-certified or board-eligible psychiatrists. People needing care, and not meeting the criteria for admission, may be referred to other resources in the community.

TREATMENT

Using a combined medical, biopsychosocial and rehabilitation model, the Treatment Teams are led by a psychiatrist and include social workers, nurses, recreation therapists, dietitians and pharmacists.

The Hospital operates a continuum of care including the Recovery Unit (CRU) for adult acute inpatient services and the Emergency Psychiatric Unit (EPU) for crisis intervention and stabilization. Treatment includes use of techniques for improving each person’s skills in managing his/her own medication, understanding and recognizing his/her symptoms, and developing improved social skills. Supportive counseling is offered to individual patients as appropriate.

PHARMACY

Located immediately adjacent to the Hospital in the County Health Services Complex is the San Diego County HHSAs Pharmacy. The Pharmacy provides medication to both inpatients of the CRU as well as ambulatory patients of EPU. The Pharmacy Services maintains a stock of the latest medications approved in the Medi-Cal formulary to ensure that our clients receive the highest level of medicinal care.

WORKING WITH A PATIENT’S FAMILY

When possible, Hospital staff members work closely with the patient’s family. With the patient’s permission, family members or significant others are invited to family conferences. There is a weekly family support group available to families. Family involvement helps create a supportive patient-family relationship. In addition, it provides emotional support for those not involved in the patient’s on-going care and helps educate them about mental illness and related issues. It is also believed that family involvement can help prevent later re-hospitalizations for the patient.

DISCHARGE AND AFTERCARE

Discharge planning is an integral part of the continuum of care that begins with the initial evaluation. It is chiefly the responsibility of the Social Work staff, with input from other clinical staff involved with the patient. In accordance with California Department of Health Care Services regulations, patients will be treated at the least restrictive level of care compatible with their functioning. Patients are referred to all appropriate community resources.

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

There is a charge for hospital services. However, no one is denied treatment because of an inability to pay. Patients with limited resources may be eligible for Medi-Cal or Medicare, or Short-Doyle Medi-Cal funding. Payment of the hospital bill is based on income, family size and assets under a state formula called UMDAP (Uniform Method of Determining Ability to Pay). Patients are referred to an eligibility worker to help with completing the necessary financial forms.

ACCREDITATION/LICENSURE

The San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital meets the strict accreditation standards of the California Department of Public Health, Licensing and Certification Division, The Joint Commission, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and California Department of Health Care Services. The facility is administered by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services, under its division of Inpatient Health Services.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

All patients are guaranteed the right of strict confidentiality in accordance with provisions of both state and federal laws. Additionally, pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992, San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, handicap, disability or age. Patients and family may receive consultation from the Hospital’s Ethics Committee and/or the Patient Advocate. For further information or to file a complaint, contact the Hospital Administrator, 692-8232.

VISITING HOURS AND POLICIES

Regular visiting hours are 7:15-8:30 PM on week days. On Saturday, Sunday and holidays, visiting hours are 1-3 PM and 7:15-8:30 PM. Patients may have two visitors at a time. Occasionally, the psychiatrist may not allow visitors until patient is ready. Also, patients may request not to have certain visitors. Persons under age 18 may visit when special arrangements are made with the treating staff. We are a non-smoking facility.

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

The family support group meets every Tuesday (except on holidays) from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the Administration Conference Room located in the SDCPH Administration Building.