

## Secure Withdrawal Management and Stabilization (SWMS)

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### Background

A Secure Withdrawal Management and Stabilization facility (SWMS) is any facility which can provide directly, or by direct arrangement with other public or private agencies, involuntary substance use treatment to persons suffering from a substance use disorder (SUD), and which is licensed or certified as such by the Department of Health.

Since 2018, Designated Crisis Responders have had the authority to detain a person to a SWMS facility for involuntary SUD treatment.

### More about this program

Level of care varies depending on the acuity of the SUD presentation, and the needs of the individual. Each facility must provide the following:

- Assessment and treatment by certified SUD professionals or co-occurring disorder specialists
- Clinical stabilization services
- Acute or subacute detoxification services for intoxicated individuals
- Discharge assistance by SUD professionals or co-occurring disorder specialists

The length of stay for involuntary treatment starts with an initial 120 hours (excluding weekends and Holidays), with a possible 14-day commitment. Further commitment, with a maximum of 90 or 180 days, may be ordered by a court. At any time during their commitment, an individual can be discharged from the facility when it is appropriate for their treatment needs.

During State Fiscal Year 2023, SWMS facilities had 769 total admissions, with a total of 686 individual clients served. Some clients receive multiple admissions due to multiple ITA detentions.

Washington State has a total of 65 SWMS beds, as of June 1, 2023. Lewis county has 21 SWMS beds; Chelan County has 12; King County has 16 SWMS beds; Clark County has 16. Total capacity is expected to grow by at least 16 beds per year.

### Funding

SWMS are reimbursed for providing services by Medicaid or state funds based on the individual's benefits. Primary insurance may be billed first if the individual has a plan which will pay for the services provided at a SWMS.

### Oversight

Adult:

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.05  
Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-341-1104

Youth:

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 71.34  
Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-341-1106

### Who is served by the program

Any individual who meets criteria for detention under the ITA with SUD as the primary reason for detention.

### For more information

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