Life-long implications for mentally ill patients who have been treated against their will - Patient or Prisoner -

A DISCUSSION OF THE FLAWS AND FAILURES OF INVOLUNTARY PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION PRESENTED IN COMMITTED: THE BATTLE OVER INVOLUNTARY PSYCHIATRIC CARE

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Reference
Hospitalization

- In 2012, 1,777,300 people were hospitalized in the US for a mental illness.
- Informed consent
- Loss of autonomy
- Loss of freedom
- Forced medication
Patients experiences

- Terrified
- Physically restrained
- Forcibly injected with meds (meds unknown/potential risks/side effects)
- Scared away from future treatment
- Trauma
Who makes the decision?

- Intern/ER doctor who gets a consult from a case management worker
- Inexperienced staff pushing people into hospitalization
- No alternatives
Consequences

- Psychological and physical trauma
- Undue harm to patients in greatest time of need
Legal Issues

- 2013 Christina Schuhmacher
- “Eleanor”
- Mentally ill have fewer rights than a criminal who has willfully committed a crime
How to shift to a System that prioritizes patient’s rights?

- Psychiatric Advanced Directives: PAD’s decreased rates of future involuntary hospitalization by 23%
- Mediation
- Recovery-oriented care systems