**Title:** A PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER LED URGENT C A R E OFFICE : DECREASING EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

Name: Dr. Pasqua Spinelli PMHNP-BC
**Mather- Northwell Health, New York** 11177, USA

The lack of access to psychiatric services in health care has been a constant challenge for decades, resulting in significant delays to treatment with consequences in reduced quality of care, low patient satisfaction, poor patient outcomes, reduction in the workforce and higher costs (National Council for Behavioral Health, 2017). According to a March, 2017 report from the National Council of Behavioral Health (NCBH), a national shortage of psychiatrists is about to spiral out of control, with 77% of U.S. counties reporting a severe psychiatrist shortage.
Emergency departments have seen an increase of psychiatric patients in the last couple of years. This trend is related to the lack of access to mental health providers. Urgent care is defined as health care provided for the treatment of acute illness or injury that is not life threatening (Urgent Care Association of America [UCAOA], 2011).
In December 2017, a Psychiatric NP led urgent care office was implemented. After a year of collecting data from a retrospective chart review, 49 patients were seen from December 2017- December 2018 for urgent mental health issues. Two patients required police intervention to be taken to hospital for inpatient admission.
As part of a solution in alleviating overcrowded EDs for patients with life threatening needs, urgent care offices serve as a viable alternative (UCAOA, 2011). The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner in an urgent care setting is educationally prepared to provide comprehensive psychiatric management to patients and most importantly effective in decreasing Emergency Room visits and in addition increase patient satisfaction and patient safety.

**Biography**

Dr. Pasqua Spinelli PhD, PMHNP-BC is a Board Certified Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. She has completed her PhD from Capella University and BSN and MSN studies from Adelphi University School of Nursing, Garden City, NY. She is the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at Mather-Northwell Behavioral Health, New York. She has also has worked as Visiting professor, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner and Legal Nurse Consultant.

**Presenting author details**
Full name: Dr. Pasqua Spinelli
Contact number: 631-672-6692
Track: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
Category: Oral