



Overview

The State of Colorado is in the process of phasing out all 3.2 Withdrawal Management (WDM) levels of care statewide, with a planned transition over the next two years. In anticipation of this change, the RCC-M is proactively piloting a new service model in partnership with the Behavioral Health Administration. This pilot, launched on December 29, 2025, enables RCC-M to continue providing safe, timely, and clinically appropriate withdrawal support while aligning with future state requirements and preserving local access to care.

Key Program Updates

- Axis Regional Crisis Center, Montrose has transitioned from a 3.2 WDM unit to a 23-hour observation model, with five dedicated observation beds located within the Walk-In Crisis (WIC) area.
- RCC-M continues to accept individuals experiencing withdrawal and can provide withdrawal management protocols for up to 23 hours when clinically appropriate. This ensures immediate stabilization and assessment remains available locally.
- For individuals who require a longer duration of withdrawal management, RCC-M will:
 - Conduct clinical assessment during the 23-hour observation period.
 - Coordinate referral to Axis' Regional Crisis Center, Durango Withdrawal Management (Detox), or another comparable level of care, when clinically indicated.
 - Arrange transportation and support a warm handoff whenever possible.
 - If no beds are available or the individual declines transfer, discharge and safety planning will occur at the conclusion of the observation period.
 - When clinically appropriate, individuals may be provided with appropriate withdrawal medications prior to transfer to support safe continuity of care.
- Emergency Commitment (EC)* patients: Axis' Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) endorsement allows EC patients to be admitted to the CSU when criteria are met, and a provider approves the admission. This expands local treatment options and reduces the need for unnecessary transfers out of the community.
- Other services: The unit is not exclusive to people experiencing withdrawal. Following a clinician-completed Crisis Assessment, when a patient meets the safety-planning level of care but would benefit from additional monitoring before returning home. This supports safer discharges and improved clinical outcomes.

Axis does not provide medical detox services. Individuals requiring medical detox will continue to be referred to appropriate hospital-based or medically supervised programs.

*Emergency commitment under Colorado law (CRS § 27-81-111) allows law enforcement or emergency personnel to take a person into protective custody when the person is "under the influence of or incapacitated by substances" (which includes alcohol) *and* is clearly dangerous to the health or safety of themselves or others.