



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
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TO: Deputy Secretary Erney
Deputy Secretary's Representatives
OMHSAS Field Offices
Department of Health and Public Welfare, Agency Representatives
County Representatives
Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations

FROM: Bureau of Operations and Quality Management
Bureau of Policy and Program Development

Enclosed is HealthChoices Behavioral Health Policy Clarification #02-04 developed by the Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. If you have questions relating to these documents, please contact your OMHSAS Representative, or contact Jim Myers at (717) 772-7928.

Enclosure

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Jeffrey".

Michael Jeffrey, Director
Bureau of Operations and
Quality Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sabrina Tillman-Boyd".

Sabrina Tillman-Boyd, Director
Bureau of Policy and
Program Development

Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
Bureau of Policy and Program Development

**HealthChoices Behavioral Health
Policy Clarification**

*Issue Clarification #:02-04
Date of Receipt: 01/04*

*Applicability: All Zones
Source Documentation: MR Bulletin 00-99-14; 42 CFR.483.430*

Question/Issue:

Submitted by: *Jonna L. DiStefano, Delaware County*
County Authority: *All Counties*
Topic Area: *MR Evaluations for Determination/Re-determination
of MR Waiver Services*

The County is requesting further clarification of policy clarification #03-03, issued 8/20/03, regarding the requirement for “current psychological evaluations” needed for determination or re-determination of eligibility for MR Waiver Services.

Background/Context

The County with Magellan reviewed MR Bulletin #00-99-14 regarding “Individual Eligibility for Medicaid Waiver Services” and request clarification on the following points:

1. For the purposes of determination or re-determination of eligibility for MR Waiver Services, what is the functional definition of “psychological evaluation?” For this purpose, does psychological evaluation include clinical review, formal interview, formal standardized IQ testing, and formal and informal adaptive functioning assessments?
2. Do the requirements for psychological evaluation differ between initial determination and re-determination?
3. What is the real-time equivalent of “current evaluation”?
4. On page 3 of the MR Bulletin there is a criterion (#2) for the determination of MR that refers to a “qualified mental retardation professional” (QMRP) that will certify through standardized assessment of adaptive behavior, a functional impairment level consistent with mental retardation. Magellan does not have the means to credential and contract with this level of professional. Please provide direction on how Magellan can comply with this requirement.
5. Encounter reporting issues:
 - How can adults with MR-only diagnosis be reported for Psychological Testing codes which are MH-only services?
 - With existing reporting codes, how can these services be differentially tracked for MR members for encounter and rate setting implications?
6. How do these services impact on Magellan’s compliance with TPL benefit guidelines?

1. Determination and re-determination of MR Waiver eligibility are not the responsibility of the BH-MCO. The BH-MCO's responsibility is limited to performing standardized intelligence tests in those rare circumstances in which an individual has not had previous testing or when records of past testing do not accurately reflect the individual's current abilities. Adaptive functioning tests are the responsibility of the County MR Office. HealthChoices is not intended to supplant services when there is adequate testing or testing records from the Department of Education that meet the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) standard for standardized testing, or other resources such as the activities associated with a QMRP, that are performed by the County Mental Retardation Office.
2. Determination and redetermination of MR Waiver eligibility are the responsibility of the County MR Office.
3. There is no specific time period in which an evaluation must be done. A current evaluation is one that reflects the intellectual and adaptive behavior challenges that the individual currently faces, along with present social and psychological conditions. If there has been a change in the individual's condition due to illness or trauma since a previous evaluation, retesting may be necessary.
4. As the BH-MCO has no responsibility for MR Waiver eligibility determination, there is no need to credential a QMRP.
5. Procedure codes for psychological evaluations include the diagnosis of mental retardation. The current local codes for psychological testing are W0841 through W0846. With the implementation of the national codes, the local codes will be crosswalked to 96100 and 96117 with various modifiers. These services for individuals with mental retardation may be tracked separately using the diagnosis codes (317-319).
6. Current Medical Assistance TPL guidelines remain in effect.



Sabrina Tillman-Boyd, Director
Bureau of Policy and Program Development
Office of Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services



Mel Knowlton, Director
Bureau of Policy Development
Office of Mental Retardation