

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

HealthChoices Behavioral Health

Policy Clarification

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Applicability: All Regions

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Appendix T

Submitted by: Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative and other inquiries

Topic Area: Psychiatric/Psychological Evaluations for Residential Treatment Facility Admissions

Question/Issue:

If a child has been referred to a Residential Treatment Facility (RTF), can the psychiatric/psychological evaluation for that child be considered “current” for a period of sixty (60) days versus the thirty (30) days referenced in the footnote in Appendix T, Residential Treatment Facilities, Admission Criteria, Section I, Part C, Footnote 2?

Background/Context:

We respectfully request that OMHSAS approve a period of sixty (60) days versus the thirty (30) days referenced in the footnote in Appendix T for children who have been referred to a residential treatment facility (RTF). The basis for the request is that admission to an RTF sometimes takes more than 30 days after the evaluation. Our experience has shown that scheduling a second psychiatric evaluation and ISPT in order to meet the standards of RTF admission as required in the footnote to Appendix T has not produced a different clinical recommendation for children.

OMHSAS Answer/Response:

Based on a review of the information presented by CABHC, and consultation with OMHSAS staff psychiatrists, OMHSAS agrees that extending the time limit for psychiatric/psychological evaluations from thirty (30) to sixty (60) days does not impose a threat of harm to youth in need of RTF treatment, since experience shows that the vast majority of such youth will continue to need this level of care. Therefore, a psychiatric/psychological evaluation for a child referred to an RTF, during which time the thirty (30) day maximum referenced in Appendix T has passed, shall continue to be current for an additional thirty (30) days. The original evaluation is valid for a total of 60

days after the date of the initial evaluation, without a requirement that the original qualifying diagnostician document the evaluation's continued applicability.


Director, Bureau of Policy, Planning and Program Development

11-13-09
Date