

State Department of Mental Health
Medical Necessity Criteria for Specialty Mental Health Services
California Code of Regulations Title 9, Division 1—Department of Mental Health 1830.205

To be eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement for Outpatient/Specialty Mental Health Services, clients must meet all 3 criteria (diagnostic, impairment, & intervention related)

- A. DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA** Must have one of the following DSM IV diagnoses, which will be the focus of the intervention being provided:
- Pervasive Developmental Disorders, except Autistic Disorder which is excluded
 - Attention Deficit and Disruptive Behavior Disorders
 - Feeding & Eating Disorders of Infancy or Early Childhood
 - Elimination Disorders
 - Other Disorders of Infancy, Childhood, or Adolescence
 - Schizophrenia & Other Psychotic Disorders
 - Mood Disorders
 - Anxiety Disorders
 - Somatoform Disorders
 - Factitious Disorders
 - Paraphilias
 - Gender Identity Disorders
 - Eating Disorders
 - Impulse-Control Disorders Not Elsewhere Classified
 - Adjustment Disorders
 - Personality Disorders, excluding Antisocial Personality Disorder
 - Medication-Induced Movement Disorders
- B. IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA** Must have **one of the following** as a result of the mental disorder(s) identified in the diagnostic (A) criteria; must have one, either 1, 2, or 3:
1. A significant impairment in an important area of life functioning, or
 2. A probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning, or
 3. Children also qualify if there is a probability the child will not progress developmentally as individual appropriate. Children covered under EPSDT qualify if they have a mental disorder that can be corrected or ameliorated.

C. INTERVENTION RELATED CRITERIA Must have all, 1, 2, and 3 below:

1. The focus of the proposed intervention is to address the condition identified in impairment criteria “B” above, and
2. It is expected the proposed intervention will benefit the consumer by significantly diminishing the impairment, or preventing significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning; and/or for children it is probable the child will be enabled to progress developmentally as individually appropriate (or if covered by EPSDT, the identified condition can be corrected or ameliorated), and
3. The condition would not be responsive to physical healthcare-based treatment.

EPSDT beneficiaries with an included diagnosis and a substance related disorder may receive specialty mental health services directed at the substance abuse component. The intervention must be consistent with, and necessary to, the attainment of the specialty MH treatment goals.

EXCLUDED DIAGNOSES

- o Mental Retardation
- o Motor Skills Disorder
- o Communication Disorders
- o Autistic Disorder (Other Pervasive Developmental Disorders are included)
- o Tic Disorders
- o Delirium, Dementia, and Amnesic and Other Cognitive Disorders
- o Mental Disorders Due to a General Medical condition
- o Substance-Related Disorders
- o Sexual Disorders
- o Sleep Disorders
- o Antisocial Personality Disorder
- o Other Conditions that May Be a Focus of Clinical Attention

A consumer may receive services for an included diagnosis when an excluded diagnosis is also present.