

San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Criteria for Entry to Adult/Older Adult Specialty Mental Health Services

This document describes the diagnostic, level of impairment, focus of intervention, and risk factors that are taken into consideration by San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services' clinicians when determining whether specialty mental health services provided by the Division or its subcontractors would be appropriate for and should be made available to an adult or older adult. The criteria vary for different insurance categories due to limited resources within public mental health and BHRS's primary role as a mental health plan for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and as a safety net for those who have no resources. These criteria are not meant to replace individual clinical judgment, which always guides decisions about entry to the specialty mental health system. Cases that do not meet these criteria but appear to present overriding clinical concerns should be reviewed with the Medical Director and the Deputy Director of Adult and Older Adult Services to determine appropriate disposition.

Eligible categories of adults/older adults:

- San Mateo County Medi-Cal beneficiaries consistent with the State-defined medical necessity criteria for specialty mental health services.
- Healthy Families, Healthy Kids, and HealthWorx Health Plan of San Mateo beneficiaries consistent with Medi-Cal medical necessity criteria. Note: the upper age limit for the first two programs varies and thus there are some transition age young adults still covered by these programs.
- Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) Care Advantage beneficiaries.
- San Mateo County ACE program beneficiaries consistent with the State-defined medical necessity criteria for specialty mental health services
- Uninsured San Mateo County residents who are seriously mentally ill and have a significant degree of impairment and risk.
- Insured San Mateo residents may only be served if all of the following conditions apply and to the extent resources are available--a) they are seriously mentally ill and have a significant degree of impairment and risk, and b) the needed services are not required to be covered under insurance pursuant to California's Mental Health Parity Law.

The following information summarizes factors that must be taken into consideration when determining an individual's eligibility for County Specialty Mental Health Services. The same material is then presented in greater detail and specificity in grid form.

- SMI Diagnosis, typically including one or more of the following:
 - a. Schizophrenia, or other illness with psychotic features
 - b. Bipolar I

- c. Major Depression
- d. Severe PTSD
- e. Severe Personality Disorder
- o Current Degree of Impairment
 - a. There is a direct impact and correlation of serious mental illness on life functioning, separate from social and situational stressors and not attributed solely to substance abuse, medical conditions or cognitive impairment.
 - b. Recent PES visits and psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations, not attributed solely to substance abuse, medical conditions or cognitive impairment.
 - c. SMI symptoms are the primary cause of decreased functioning.
- o Degree of risk for self injurious behavior or injury to others as demonstrated by:
 - a. Recent serious thoughts of harming self or others.
 - b. Recent significant, injurious behaviors.
 - c. Inability to care for self due to severe mental illness.
 - d. Past and present PES and hospitalization information that indicates a high probability of current risk not attributed solely to substance abuse, medical conditions or cognitive impairment.

<p>CRITERIA Must meet both I Diagnostic and III Intervention Focus criteria below <u>and</u> at least one of either II Impairment or IV Risk criteria.</p>	<p>Medi-Cal beneficiaries, Health Families, Healthy Kids, and Healthworx; ACE Beneficiaries; Care Advantage Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Uninsured residents of San Mateo County</p>	<p>Insured residents of San Mateo County, including those with Medicare only</p>
<p>I DIAGNOSIS</p>			
<p>Diagnostic Criteria A: Medi-Cal list of included diagnoses (Services may be provided for an Included Dx when an Excluded Dx is also present)</p>	<p>Yes, but also must have II Impairment A or B and III Intervention Focus.</p>	<p>Insufficient unless accompanied by III Intervention Focus and IV Risk.</p>	<p>Insufficient.</p>
<p>Diagnostic Criteria B (subset of A, Medi-Cal list of included diagnoses): One or more of the following SMI diagnoses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schizophrenia or other illness w/psychotic features - Bipolar I - Major Depression - Severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - Severe Personality Disorder 	<p>Yes if accompanied by II Impairment and III Intervention Focus.</p>	<p>Yes if accompanied by II Impairment and III Intervention Focus.</p>	<p>Yes but only if accompanied by II Impairment and III Intervention Focus, <u>and</u> resources are available, <u>and</u> the service required is not available through client's insurance per Mental Health Parity Law.</p>
<p>II IMPAIRMENT</p>			
<p>Degree of Impairment A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Either a significant impairment in an important area of life functioning that is anticipated to result in the individual requiring public benefits such as SSI - Or a probability of significant deterioration in an important area of life functioning. 	<p>Yes if accompanied by I Diagnosis A or B and III Intervention Focus.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p>CRITERIA Must meet both I Diagnostic and III Intervention Focus criteria below <u>and</u> at least one of either II Impairment or IV Risk criteria.</p>	<p>Medi-Cal beneficiaries, Health Families, Healthy Kids, and Healthworx; ACE Beneficiaries; Care Advantage Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Uninsured residents of San Mateo County</p>	<p>Insured residents of San Mateo County, including those with Medicare only</p>
<p>Degree of Impairment B: Current significant dysfunction as a result of SMI diagnosis, distinct from social and situational stressors, and unrelated to substance abuse, medical conditions, or cognitive impairment.</p>	<p>Yes if accompanied by I Diagnosis A or B and III Intervention Focus</p>	<p>Yes if accompanied by diagnosis in I B and III Intervention Focus.</p>	<p>Yes but only if accompanied by I Diagnosis B and III Intervention Focus, <u>and</u> resources are available, <u>and</u> the needed service is not required to be available through client's insurance per Mental Health Parity Law.</p>
<p>III INTERVENTION FOCUS</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The condition would not be responsive to physical health care based treatment. - The focus of the proposed intervention is to address the included diagnosis; - And there is an expectation that the proposed intervention will significantly diminish the impairment or prevent deterioration in a significant area of life functioning. 	<p>Yes if accompanied by I Diagnosis A or B and II Impairment A or B.</p>	<p>Yes if accompanied by I Diagnosis B and II Impairment B.</p>	<p>Yes but only if accompanied by I Diagnosis B and II Impairment B, <u>and</u> resources are available, <u>and</u> the needed service is not required to available through client's insurance per Mental Health Parity Law.</p>

<p>CRITERIA Must meet both I Diagnostic and III Intervention Focus criteria below <u>and</u> at least one of either II Impairment or IV Risk criteria.</p>	<p>Medi-Cal beneficiaries, Health Families, Healthy Kids, and Healthworx; ACE Beneficiaries; Care Advantage Beneficiaries</p>	<p>Uninsured residents of San Mateo County</p>	<p>Insured residents of San Mateo County, including those with Medicare only</p>
<p>IV RISK</p>			
<p>Significant degree of current risk for self-injurious behavior or injury to others as a result of Diagnosis I as demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recent serious thoughts of harming self/others, or - Recent significant injurious behaviors, or - Inability to care for self due to severe mental illness, or - Past/present psychiatric emergency visits and hospitalizations that indicate a high probability of current risk--unrelated to substance abuse, medical conditions, or cognitive impairment. 	<p>Yes if accompanied by I Diagnosis A or B and III Intervention Focus.</p>	<p>Yes if accompanied by Diagnosis in I A or B and III Intervention Focus.</p>	<p>Yes but only if accompanied by I Diagnosis B <u>and</u> resources are available, <u>and</u> the needed service is not required as a benefit through the client's insurance per Mental Health Parity Law.</p>

- Specific services provided to eligible adults/older adults will be based on clinical assessment of appropriate level of care and in some cases may be only a brief intervention.
- Impairment criteria for Medi-Cal beneficiaries under age 21 is broader and includes a probability a child will not progress developmentally as individually appropriate.
- Emergency psychiatric services are provided regardless of eligibility through the Psychiatric Emergency Services Department located at San Mateo County Medical Center but ongoing treatment will be provided only if above criteria are met for entry to adult/older adult mental health services.
- Behavioral Health can provide psychiatric consultation for some conditions including developmental disability, substance abuse, and medical conditions. Generally, individuals whose mental health conditions are secondary to medical conditions would not receive San Mateo County Specialty Mental Health services (such as cognitive impairment due to Stroke, Dementia, Organic Brain Syndrome, or Mental Retardation or Autism).