

North Carolina Medicaid Special Bulletin

An Information Service of the
Division of Medical Assistance

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Attention:

Adult Care Home Providers

Criteria for Determining if Adult Care Home Residents Count Toward Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Threshold

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The purpose of this bulletin is to set out criteria for determining if Adult Care Home residents count toward the Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) threshold, and to assist in determining if a resident’s current need for placement in an Adult Care Home meets federal IMD guidelines.

The criteria have been developed by the N.C. Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) with input and the agreement of the North Carolina Long Term Care Association.

Category 1: Residents (1) with a Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (“SPMI”)¹ or (2) residents with a substance abuse (“SA”) diagnosis (i.e. chemically dependent residents receiving treatment that follows a psychiatric model and is performed by medically trained and licensed personnel) without accompanying medical/physical issues. These individuals are counted toward IMD threshold.

Category 2: Residents with SPMI or a SA diagnosis who have other conditions/diagnoses (see below) which take precedence over their mental illness or SA diagnosis. These individuals are not counted toward IMD threshold. Conditions taking precedence over a resident’s mental illness or SA diagnosis are set out below (any one checked category means the individual does not count toward threshold):

(1) SA resident or (2) SPMI resident who has not had a mental health crisis or has not been psychiatrically hospitalized within the past year, AND

- Antidepressant and/or anti-anxiety medications are the only psychotropic medications the individual takes and the individual has a current medical/physical issue
- Individual is bed-bound due to medical/physical issues
- Individual requires hands-on assistance with ADLs due to medical and/or physical issues
- As determined by the primary care physician, individual does not have behavioral health needs that require ongoing support from a psychiatrist or therapist/counselor and individual has not received any enhanced mental health services (ACTT, Community Support Team, PSR, etc) within the past year
- Individual is 65 years or older
- Individual has a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s, dementia, organic brain syndrome or traumatic brain injury

¹ N.C. Gen. Stat. 122C-3 defines “severe and persistent mental illness” as

a mental disorder suffered by persons of 18 years of age or older that leads these persons to exhibit emotional or behavioral functioning that is so impaired as to interfere substantially with their capacity to remain in the community without supportive treatment or services of a long term or indefinite duration. This disorder is a severe and persistent mental disability, resulting in a long-term limitation of functional capacities for the primary activities of daily living, such as interpersonal relations, homemaking, self-care, employment, and recreation.

- Individual has a diagnosis of mental retardation/intellectual disability

Category 3: For all other residents with a mental illness or a SA diagnosis, those who have other conditions/diagnoses (see below) that take precedence over their mental illness or SA diagnosis will not be counted toward the IMD threshold. Conditions taking precedence over a resident's mental illness or SA diagnosis are set out below (any one checked category means the individual does not count toward threshold):

- Antidepressant and/or anti-anxiety medications are the only psychotropic medications the individual takes and the individual has a current medical/physical issue
- Individual is bed-bound due to medical/physical issues
- Individual requires hands-on assistance with ADLs due to medical and/or physical issues
- As determined by the primary care physician, individual does not have behavioral health needs that require ongoing support from a psychiatrist or therapist/counselor and individual has not received any enhanced mental health services (ACTT, Community Support Team, PSR, etc) within the past year
- Individual is 65 years or older
- Individual has a diagnosis of Alzheimer's, dementia, organic brain syndrome or traumatic brain injury
- Individual has a diagnosis of mental retardation/intellectual disability

For all other residents with mental illness or SA diagnosis, the Facility will document the need for supervision, medication administration, assistance with activities of daily living, and/or the need for personal care services ("Assisted Living Assistance"). If such Assisted Living Assistance arises from issues other than a mental health diagnosis(es) or an SA diagnosis, then such resident will not count towards the IMD threshold. If the need for Assisted Living Assistance arises from mental illness or a SA diagnosis, the resident will be counted towards the IMD threshold.

Category 4: People without a mental health diagnosis or SA diagnosis. These individuals do not count toward the IMD threshold.

WITH RESPECT TO THESE CRITERIA, NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE READ TO IMPLY THAT DMA HAS RELINQUISHED ITS AUTHORITY UNDER APPLICABLE LAW TO INDEPENDENTLY EVALUATE A FACILITY'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE CRITERIA SET OUT HEREIN ABOVE.

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