

Considerations for SMI Evaluation Referrals for Inpatient Individuals

CRN is committed to making well-informed, accurate, and timely SMI Determinations, maintaining fidelity of SMI criteria, and collaborating with providers to make this process as transparent as possible

The points below are designed to assist you in making appropriate referrals for an SMI evaluation and to provide guidance on what information is especially relevant when an evaluation is being reviewed for determination

Please consider the checklist below when deciding whether to refer someone for an SMI evaluation:

- Does the individual have a current SMI qualifying diagnosis on record AND does the record support the diagnosis by clear description of corresponding symptoms (symptom type, onset, duration, and frequency), behaviors consistent with the diagnosis, and clinical observations consistent with the diagnosis?
- Does the individual have, documented in the hospital record, severe functional impairment that is directly linked to the SMI qualifying diagnosis AND has that functional impairment been occurring for at least the past 12 months or 6 months with an expected continue duration of another 6 months?
- In addition to the above, is it clear that the symptoms and functional impairment are not primarily due to substance abuse/dependence, medical conditions (i.e. chronic pain, brain injury, seizure disorder, thyroid condition, obesity, diabetes, etc.), developmental disability, antisocial personality traits or disorder, situational stressors, or other diagnoses or factors? If any of those factors are present, is there documentation to show that they have been ruled out as the primary reason for their impairment?
- For those admitted with recent or current substance use:
 - Is there is evidence of periods of sustained sobriety with persistence of symptoms and functional impairment during those periods?
 - Is there evidence that symptom onset was prior to onset of substance use?
- Does the individual have a history of outpatient mental health treatment that has been unsuccessful in managing the symptoms of a qualifying diagnosis? (If not, are they eligible for GMH/SA or other OP services and has that been considered?)
- Does the individual have a history of chronic SI, suicide attempts, and/or psychiatric hospitalizations (not all while using substances)?
- Is there a history of mental illness in the family; have family members been treated for mental illness and/or attempted/committed suicide?
- Has the psychiatric provider seen the individual and do they agree that an SMI evaluation referral is warranted?

If an evaluation is scheduled, please be prepared to provide the evaluator with all relevant records that support the above points.

We are here to help in this process; please contact us if you have any questions and/or need technical assistance.