



SED/SMI ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

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| Policy Category | ECS Clinical Determinations | Policy Number | 2.02 |
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INTRODUCTION

It is the policy of the Solari to meet all Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) requirements regarding the completion and reporting of Serious Mental Illness (SMI) eligibility determination decisions.

PROCEDURES

1. SED/SMI PACKET COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

1.1. Within one (1) working day of receipt of the SED/SMI Assessment Packet, the Eligibility Determination Specialist will review all information received to determine if the Assessment Packet is complete. A complete Assessment Packet includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1.1.1. Consent for the Assessment
- 1.1.2. Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Determination Form
- 1.1.3. Core Assessment
- 1.1.4. Waiver of 3 Day Determination
 - 1.1.4.1. This form is not required. If this form is not submitted, a decision will be made in three days
- 1.1.5. Releases of Information (ROIs)
- 1.1.6. Additional Records relevant to the eligibility determination process

2. COLLATERAL INFORMATION

2.1. The Eligibility Determination Specialist will also determine if there is collateral information available to assist in the evaluation process. Collateral information includes, but is not limited to the following:

- 2.1.1. Past determination applications;
- 2.1.2. Information in the historical browser; and
- 2.1.3. Information in historical files received from prior regional contractors.



3. INCOMPLETE SED/SMI ASSESMENT PACKET

3.1. If the Assessment Packet is incomplete, the Eligibility Determination Specialist will contact the submitting provider to request needed information and/or directly obtain past or current clinical records. If the Assessment Packet is complete, the application will be assigned to a Solari psychologist.

4. DEADLINE EXTENTIONS

4.1. The SED/SMI determination may be pended for up to twenty (20) calendar days if the individual agrees to the extension and there is insufficient functional or diagnostic information to determine eligibility status within the required three (3) business day timeframe, OR;

4.2. The SED/SMI determination may be pended for thirty (30) calendar days if the evaluation or information cannot be obtained within the required timeframe because of the need for a period of observation or abstinence from substance use in order to establish a qualifying mental health diagnosis and the individual agrees to the extension. The SED/SMI Determination may be pended again for thirty (30) days for a total of sixty (60) days if abstinence for a period of observation or reduced use of substances.

5. FINAL DETERMINATION

5.1. When the Assessment Packet is complete or prior to the expiration of the required time frame even if the information is not received, the Solari psychologist will complete the final determination. If sufficient information is received to make an Eligibility Determination prior to the expiration of the extend deadline, a decision will be made within three (3) business days from the date that sufficient information was received.

6. AGREEMENT WITH SED/SMI ELIGIBILITY STATUS

6.1. If the Solari psychologist agrees with the submitting provider's recommendation regarding SED/SMI eligibility status, the Solari psychologist completes and signs the Final Determination Form in the EHR and returns the packet to the Eligibility Determination Specialist.



7. DISAGREEMENT WITH QUALIFIED ASSESSOR

7.1. The following must occur if the Solari psychologist has not conducted a face-to-face assessment and has a disagreement with the qualified assessor and/or the treating Behavioral Health Professional that cannot be resolved by oral or written communication:

7.1.1. Disagreement regarding the diagnosis:

7.1.1.1. Determination that the person does not meet eligibility requirements for SED/SMI status must be based on a face-to-face diagnostic evaluation conducted by a designated Solari psychologist. The resolution of (specific reasons for) the disagreement shall be documented in the person's comprehensive clinical record.

7.1.2. Disagreement regarding functional impairment:

7.1.2.1. Determination that the person does not meet eligibility requirements must be documented in a clinical staffing note. If a clinical staffing is not conducted, then the determination that the person does not meet eligibility requirements must be based on a face-to-face assessment.

8. SENDING INFORMATION TO AHCCCS ONCE DETERMINATION IS REACHED

8.1. Within one (1) working day of the SED/SMI eligibility determination has been reached, the Eligibility Determination Specialist will transmit the following information to AHCCCS via the AHCCCS Behavioral Health web portal:

8.1.1. Applicant/Individual Name

8.1.2. Applicant/Individual Date of Birth

8.1.3. Type of case: Determination vs. Removal of Designation

8.1.4. SED/SMI Eligibility Determination Finding;

8.1.5. SED/SMI Eligibility Determination (SED, not SED, SMI or not SMI);

8.1.6. Reason for SED/SMI Eligibility Determination (if applicable);

8.1.7. SED/SMI Eligibility Determination/Review Decision Date;

8.1.8. International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM)

8.1.9. Name and Title of the person who conducted the SED/SMI Eligibility Determination Assessment;



- 8.1.10. Name of the Licensed Behavioral Health Medical Practitioner or Behavioral Health Professional who rendered the SED/SMI Eligibility Determination Evaluation Assessment and Decision;
- 8.1.11. Whether the member was determined SMI-A to indicate that functional criteria 2a or 2b is met or SMI-B to indicate that functional criteria 2c or 3 is met;
- 8.1.12. If extension is required, date of request and end of the extension; and
- 8.1.13. Additional case notes as applicable.

9. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1. All notices to persons being considered for SED/SMI eligibility will be created in accordance with Policy 9.01 Communication Guidelines.
- 9.2. Within three (3) working days of an eligibility determination, the Eligibility Determination Specialist will create the following required Notices in the Electronic Health Record:
 - 9.2.1. *Notice of SMI Determination and Right to Appeal*
 - 9.2.2. *ACOM Policy 444 Appeal Form*

Approval

Date

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin N. Chase".

Justin N. Chase, LMSW, MBA, FACHE | President and CEO

7/17/23