



# Changes to the Community Mental Health Supports (CMHS) Waiver Targeting Criteria

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Medicaid has made recent changes to the targeting criteria for the CMHS Waiver. These changes make it easier to understand how a person is eligible for the CMHS Waiver. There is now a more specific list of criteria that a client must meet for their severe and persistent mental health needs in order to meet the waiver targeting criteria. The criteria is:

- a. Determined to meet the target group definition, defined as a person experiencing a severe and persistent mental health need that requires assistance with one or more Activities of Daily Living (ADL);
  - i. A person experiencing a severe and persistent mental health need is defined as someone who:
    - A. Is 18 years of age or older with a severe and persistent mental health need; and
    - B. Currently has or at any time during the past year leading up to assessment has a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified within the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM -5); and
    - C. Has a disorder that is episodic, recurrent, or has persistent features, but may vary in terms of severity and disabling effects; and
    - D. Has resulted in functional impairment which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.
  - ii. A severe and persistent mental health need does not include:
    - A. Intellectual or developmental disorders; or



B. Substance use disorder without a co-occurring diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental health need.

For an individual to be eligible for the waiver, they must meet the criteria as it is listed in the rule. Below are two examples of individuals who would meet the targeting criteria for the CMHS waiver under the new rules.

- 53 year old individual; living with Schizophrenia for several years that is disabling to the client; needs moderate assistance with bathing and dressing.
  - These factors allow this individual to meet the targeting criteria for the CMHS waiver.
- 27 year old individual; recently diagnosed with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) increasing in severity; needs assistance with dressing, supervision, and behavior.
  - These factors allow this individual to meet this targeting criteria for the CMHS waiver.

### **How will the changes in targeting criteria affect people on the waiver?**

Clients already on the CMHS waiver will see little to no affect from this change. At their next annual review, the CMHS waiver participant will still need a qualifying diagnosis, as stated in the targeting criteria above, on the Professional Medical Information Page (PMIP). If the client has a severe and persistent mental health need that affects one or more Activity of Daily Living (ADL) and meets the above criteria, they will remain eligible for the waiver. Talk to your case manager for more information.

We encourage everyone to work with their Single Entry Point (SEP) and doctor to ensure that a person's diagnoses meets targeting criteria. If you have any questions about your eligibility, visit [www.colorado.gov/hcpf/single-entry-point-agencies](http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/single-entry-point-agencies) to find contact information for a Single Entry Point agency in your region.

To read the complete rule 8.509.15, visit the Department Program Rules website [www.colorado.gov/hcpf/department-program-rules-and-regulations](http://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/department-program-rules-and-regulations).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information, please contact Cassandra Keller at 303-866-5181 or [Cassandra.Keller@state.co.us](mailto:Cassandra.Keller@state.co.us).

