INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This guideline is used to make coverage determinations as well as to inform discussions about evidence-based practices and discharge planning for behavioral health benefit plans managed by Optum®. When deciding coverage, the member’s specific benefits must be referenced.

All reviewers must first identify member eligibility, the member-specific benefit plan coverage, and any federal or state regulatory requirements that supersede the member’s benefits prior to using this guideline. Other clinical criteria may apply. Optum reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify its clinical criteria as necessary using the process described in Clinical Criteria.

This guideline is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

Optum may also use tools developed by third parties that are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.

Optum may develop clinical criteria or adopt externally-developed clinical criteria that supersede this guideline when required to do so by contract or regulation.
Optum is a brand used by United Behavioral Health and its affiliates.

**COMMON CRITERIA**

**Admission Criteria**

- The member's current condition cannot be safely, efficiently, and effectively assessed and/or treated in a less intensive level of care.
  - Failure of treatment in a less intensive level of care is not a prerequisite for authorizing coverage.
  - The member's condition includes consideration of the acute and chronic symptoms in the member's history and presentation including co-occurring behavioral health or medical conditions, informed by the information collected by the provider following evaluation and treatment planning described in the Common Best Practices.

AND

- The member's condition can be safely, efficiently, and effectively assessed and/or treated in the proposed level of care. Assessment and/or treatment of the member's condition requires the intensity and scope of services provided in the proposed level of care.

AND

- Co-occurring behavioral health and medical conditions can be safely managed in the proposed level of care.

AND

- Services are medical necessary. According to the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 50, Part I, Chapter 11 medically necessary services are defined as those health care services that are considered by most physicians (or other independent licensed practitioners) within the community of their respective professional organizations to be the standard of care.
  - In order to be considered medically necessary, services must be:
    - Deemed reasonably necessary to diagnose, correct, cure, alleviate or prevent the worsening of a condition or conditions that endanger life, cause suffering or pain or have resulted or will result in a handicap, physical deformity or malfunction;
      - Those for which no equally effective, more conservative and less costly course of treatment is available or suitable for the recipient.
  - Any such services must be individualized, specific and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment, and neither more nor less than what the recipient requires at that specific point in time.
  - Although a service may be deemed medically necessary, it doesn’t mean the service will be covered under the Medicaid Program. Services that are experimental, non-FDA approved, investigational or cosmetic are specifically excluded from Medicaid coverage and will be deemed "not medically necessary".
    - The Medicaid director, in consultation with the Medicaid medical director, may consider authorizing services at their discretion on a case-by-case basis.

AND

- For all levels of care, services must be for the purpose of diagnostic study or reasonably be expected to improve the patient's condition. The treatment must, at a minimum, be designed to reduce or control the patient's psychiatric symptoms so as to prevent relapse or hospitalization, and improve or maintain the patient's level of functioning.
  - It is not necessary that a course of therapy have as its goal restoration of the patient to the level of functioning exhibited prior to the onset of the illness, although this may be appropriate for some patient. For many other psychiatric patients, particularly those with long-term chronic conditions, control of symptoms and maintenance of a functional level to avoid further deterioration or hospitalization is an acceptable expectation of improvement. “Improvement” in this context is measured by comparing the effect of continuing treatment versus discontinuing it. Where there is a reasonable expectation that if treatment were withdrawn the patient’s condition would deteriorate, relapse further, or require hospitalization, this criterion is met.
  - In addition to the above, for outpatient services, some patients may undergo a course of treatment that increases their level of functioning but then reach a point where further significant increase is not expected. Such claims are not automatically considered noncovered.
because conditions have stabilized, or because treatment is now primarily for the purpose of maintaining a present level of functioning. Rather, coverage depends on whether the criteria discussed above are met; for example, that stability can be maintained without further treatment or with less intensive treatment.

**Continuing Stay Criteria**
- The admission criteria continue to be met and active treatment is being provided. For treatment to be considered “active”, service(s) must be as follows:
  - Supervised and evaluated by the admitting provider;
  - Provided under an individualized treatment plan consistent with Common Clinical Best Practices;
  - Reasonably expected to improve the member’s presenting problems.
- The factors leading to admission have been identified and are integrated into the treatment and discharge plans.

**Discharge Criteria**
- The continued stay criteria are no longer met. Examples include:
  - The member’s condition no longer requires care.
  - The member's condition has changed to the extent that the condition now meets admission criteria for another level of care.
  - Treatment is primarily for the purpose of providing social, custodial, recreational, or respite care.
  - The member requires medical/surgical treatment.
  - After an initial assessment the member is unwilling or unable to participate in treatment despite motivational support or intervention to engage in treatment, and involuntary treatment or guardianship is not being pursued.

**COMMON CLINICAL BEST PRACTICES**

**Introduction**
In assessing whether the criteria set forth in these guidelines is satisfied, staff should consider the clinical information collected from the provider following evaluation and treatment planning described in Common Clinical Best Practices. Staff should update the clinical information through continued consultation with the provider at appropriate intervals as the treatment progresses, including information about new or different symptoms or conditions that may emerge in the course of treatment.

**Evaluation & Treatment Planning**
- The initial evaluation:
  - Gathers information about the presenting issues from the member’s perspective, and includes the member’s understanding of the factors that lead to requesting services;
  - Focuses on the member’s specific needs;
  - Identifies the member’s goals and expectations;
  - Is completed in a timeframe commensurate with the member’s needs, or otherwise in accordance with clinical best practices.
- The provider collects information form the member and other sources, and completes an initial evaluation of the following:
  - The member’s chief complaint;
  - The history of the presenting illness;
  - The factors leading to the request for service;
  - The member’s mental status;
  - The member’s current level of functioning;
• Urgent needs, including those related to the risk of harm to self, others, and/or property;
• The member's use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs;
• Co-occurring behavioral health and physical conditions;
• The member's history of behavioral health services;
• The member's history of trauma;
• The member's medical history and current physical health status;
• The member's developmental history;
• Pertinent current and historical life information;
• The member's strengths;
• Barriers to care;
• The member's instructions for treatment, or appointment of a representative to make decisions about treatment;
• The member's broader recovery, resiliency, and wellbeing goals.

• The provider uses the findings of the evaluation to assign a DSM-ICD diagnosis.
• The provider and, whenever possible, the member use the findings of the initial evaluation and diagnosis to develop a treatment plan. The treatment plan addresses the following:
  o The short- and long-term goals of treatment;
  o The type, amount, frequency, and duration of treatment;
  o The expected outcome for each problem to be addressed expressed in terms that are measurable, functional, time-framed, and related to the factors leading to admission;
  o How the member's family and other natural resources will participate in treatment when clinically indicated;
  o How treatment will be coordinated with other provider(s), as well as with agencies or programs with which the member is involved.

• As needed, the treatment plan also includes interventions that enhance the member’s motivation, promote informed decisions, and support the member’s recovery, resiliency, and wellbeing. Examples include psychoeducation, motivational interviewing, recovery and resiliency planning, advance directive planning, and facilitating involvement with self-help and wraparound services.
• The provider informs the member of safe and effective treatment alternatives, as well as the potential risks and benefits of the proposed treatment. The member gives informed consent acknowledging willingness and ability to participate in treatment and abide by safety precautions.
• Treatment focuses on the member's condition including the factors precipitating admission to the point that the member's condition can be safely, efficiently, and effectively treated in a less intensive level of care, or the member no longer requires care.
• The treatment plan and level of care are reassessed when the member's condition improves, worsens, or does not respond to treatment.
  o When the member's condition has improved, the provider determines if the treatment plan should be altered, or if treatment is no longer required.
  o When the member's condition has worsened or not responded to treatment, the provider verifies the diagnosis, alters the treatment plan, or determines if the member's condition should be treated in another level of care.
• In the event that all information is unavailable at the time of the evaluation, there must be enough information to provide a basis for the diagnosis, guide the development of the treatment plan, and support the need for treatment in the proposed level of care.

Discharge Planning
• The provider and, whenever possible, the member develops an initial discharge plan at the time of admission, and estimates the length of treatment.
• The provider and, whenever possible, the member updates the initial discharge plan during the admission, ensuring that:
  o An appropriate discharge plan is in place prior to discharge;
  o The discharge plan is designed to mitigate the risk that the factors precipitating admission will reoccur;
  o The member agrees with the discharge plan.
• For members continuing treatment:
  o The discharge plan includes the following:
    • The discharge date;
    • The post-discharge level of care, and the recommended forms and frequency of treatment;
    • The name(s) of the provider(s) who will deliver treatment;
• The date of the first appointment, including the date of the first medication management visit;
• The name, dose, and frequency of each medication, with a prescription sufficient to last until the first medication management visit;
• An appointment for necessary lab tests;
• Resources to assist the member with overcoming barriers to care, such as lack of transportation or child care;
• Recommended self-help and community support services;
• Information about what the member should do in the event of a crisis prior to the first appointment.

For members not continuing treatment:
  o The discharge plan includes the following:
    • The discharge date;
    • Recommended self-help and community support services;
    • Information about what the member should do in the event of a crisis or to resume services.
  o The provider explains the risk of discontinuing treatment when the member refuses treatment or repeatedly does not adhere with the treatment plan.

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA)

APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA) is the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications using behavioral stimuli and consequences to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior. ABA therapies teach skills through the use of behavioral observation and reinforcement or prompting to teach each step of targeted behavior. ABA therapies are based on reliable evidence and are not experimental.

Admission Criteria

• See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
• The recipient is under the age of 21.
  AND
• The recipient has been diagnosed with a condition for which ABA therapy services are recognized as therapeutically appropriate, including (but not limited to) autism spectrum disorder, by a qualified health care professional.
  AND
• The recipient exhibits the presence of excesses and/or deficits of behaviors that significantly interfere with home or community activities (e.g., aggression, self-injury, elopement, etc.).
  AND
• The recipient must have the following documents submitted as a part of the prior authorization process:
  o A completed comprehensive diagnostic evaluation (CDE) indicating medical necessity and which has been performed by a qualified health care professional (QHCP).
    • The CDE must at a minimum include:
      • A thorough clinical history with the informed parent/caregiver, inclusive of developmental and psychosocial history;
      • Direct observation of the recipient, including but not limited to, assessment of current functioning in the areas of social and communicative behaviors and play or peer interactive behaviors;
      • A review of available records;
      • A valid Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, (DSM) V (or current edition) diagnosis;
      • Justification/rational for referral/non-referral for an ABA functional assessment and possible ABA services; and
      • Recommendations for an additional treatment, care or services, specialty medical or behavioral referrals, specialty consultations, and/or additional recommended standardized measures, labs or other diagnostic evaluations considered clinically appropriate and/or medically necessary.
• When the results of the screening are borderline, or if there is any lack of clarity about the primary diagnosis, comorbid conditions or the medical necessity of services requested, the following categories of assessment should be included as components of the CDE and must be specific to the recipient’s age and cognitive abilities:
  • Autism specific assessments;
  • Assessment of general psychopathology;
  • Cognitive assessment; and
  • Assessment of adaptive behavior.
  • A CDE completed more than 18 months prior to the date of service authorization request may require an update, progress report, or re-evaluation by a QHCP.

• A QHCP is defined as any of the following:
  • Pediatric Neurologist;
  • Developmental Pediatrician;
  • Psychologist, Psychiatrist; or
  • Licensed individual that has been approved by the Medicaid medical director;

  o A prescription for ABA therapy services ordered by a QHCP;

  o A behavior treatment plan that:
    • Is person-centered and based upon individualized goals;
    • Delineates the frequency of baseline behaviors and the treatment development plan to address the behaviors;
    • Identifies long-term, intermediate, and short-term goals and objectives that are behaviorally defined;
    • Identifies the criteria that will be used to measure achievement of behavior objectives;
    • Clearly identifies the schedule of services planned and the individual providers responsible for delivering the services;
    • Includes care coordination, involving the parents or caregiver(s), school, state disability programs, and others as applicable;
    • Includes parent/caregiver training, support, and participation; Has objectives that are specific, measurable, based upon clinical observations of the outcome measurement assessment and tailored to the recipient; and
    • Ensures that interventions are consistent with ABA techniques.

• Is submitted on the template provided by Louisiana or on the provider’s own form. If the provider chooses to use their own form, the provider must address all of the relevant information specified on the template including:

  The recipient’s:
  • Full name;
  • Medicaid ID number;
  • Date of birth;
  • Address;
  • Home and cell phone numbers.

  The provider’s:
  • Name;
  • Medicaid ID number;
  • Phone number;
  • Address;
  • Contact person’s email address.

The recipient’s diagnosis.

The number of hours per week requested for:
  • Registered Line Technician;
  • Supervision conducted by the Board Certified Behavior Analyst – Doctoral (BCBA/-D);
  • Direct services provided by a BCBA/-D, including caregiver training;

  • Total number of requested hours for all services.
    • The anticipated total hours of service (therapy and supervision) each day during the school year and summer as applicable.
    • The specific criteria used to determine the need for ABA therapy at the hours requested.
    • The predominant location where services will occur.
If services will occur in more than one location, those additional locations should also be listed.

- A narrative description of the baseline level of all behaviors assessed for which a goal is developed.
  - Idiosyncratic, proprietary assessment instrument results may not be used to describe baseline performance.
- If the document is a treatment plan renewal, a description of the present level of performance for skills under treatment and any goals mastered during the previous authorization period.
- A goal for each behavior/skill identified for treatment not including behavior reduction goals. Each goal should have a performance standard and a criterion for mastery.
  - Idiosyncratic, proprietary nomenclature may not be used to specify treatment goals.
- If the provider is going to intervene on problem behaviors the provider must:
  - Conduct a functional assessment or a functional analysis and develop a function based treatment plan.
  - Include the results of the functional assessment and a hypothesis statement or describe the results of a functional analysis.
  - Include the behavior topography of the problem behavior and state the frequency/duration/latency/intensity of all the problem behaviors for which a goal is developed.
  - Include behavior improvement goals with a performance standard and a criteria for mastery.
  - Include the behavior intervention plan that addresses the function of the problem behavior that includes strengthening a functional replacement behavior.
  - A grid sheet with intervention tactics may be used only if it is tied to a narrative description/date analysis of the results of the functional assessment/analysis.
- Caregiver training with a performance standard and criteria for mastery.
- The dated signatures of the:
  - Parent/guardian:
  - Provider Representative
  - Physician
- An individualized education program (IEP) (if applicable);
  - If the IEP is not included the provider should explain why they were unable to furnish it;
  - If the services are to be delivered in a school setting, the service will not be approved until an IEP is provided.
- A waiver plan profile table and the schedule from the certified plan of care (if the recipient is in a waiver and services are being requested that will occur at the same time as waiver services).

AND
- ABA services are to be delivered in accordance with the recipient’s behavior treatment plan.
  AND
- ABA services will be provided by, or under the supervision of, a behavior analyst who is currently licensed by the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board, or a licensed psychologist or licensed medical psychologist.
  AND
- ABA services are to be provided in a natural setting (e.g., home and community-based settings, including clinics and school).
  AND
- The member is not in imminent or current risk of harm to self, others, and/or property.

Continuing Stay Criteria
- See Common Continuing Stay Criteria

Discharge Criteria
- See Common Discharge Criteria
Clinical Best Practices

- See Common Clinical Best Practices
- Treatment plan services should include care coordination involving the recipient’s parent/caregiver.
- Services should include parent/caregiver training, support and participation.

Limitations and Exclusions

- A prior authorization period shall not exceed 180 days.
- The following services do not meet medical necessity criteria, and do not qualify as Medicaid covered ABA-based therapy services:
  - Therapy services rendered when measurable functional improvement or continued clinical benefit is not expected, and therapy is not necessary or expected for maintenance of function or to prevent deterioration;
  - Service that is primarily educational in nature;
  - Services delivered outside of the school setting that duplicate services under an individualized family service plan (IFSP) or an IEP, as required under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education act (IDEA);
  - Treatment whose purpose is vocationally or recreationally based;
  - Custodial care that:
    - Is provided primarily to assist in activities of daily living (ADLs)
    - Is provided primarily for maintaining the recipient’s or anyone else’s safety; or
    - Could be provided by persons without professional skills or training; and
  - Services, supplies or procedures performed in a non-conventional setting including, but not limited to:
    - Resorts;
    - Spas;
    - Therapeutic programs; or
    - Camps.

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)

**Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Adults**

Assertive Community Treatment (a.k.a. Program of Assertive Community Treatment, PACT, ACT) is an intensive community-based program that uses a multi-disciplinary team of behavioral health professionals and trained peers to provide or coordinate treatment, rehabilitation, and community support services for members who are recovering from severe mental health conditions.

Assertive Community Treatment services are provided as interventions that address the functional problems of members who have the most complex and/or pervasive conditions associated with a major mental illness or co-occurring additions disorder. These interventions are strength-based and focused on promoting symptom stability, increasing the member’s ability to cope and relate to others and enhancing the highest level of functioning in the community.

Assertive Community Treatment services are therapeutic interventions that address the functional problems of individuals who have the most complex and/or pervasive conditions associated with a major mental illness or co-occurring addictions disorder. These interventions are strength-based and focused on promoting symptom stability, increasing the member’s ability to cope and relate to others and enhancing the highest level of functioning in the community.

Interventions may address adaptive and recovery skill areas, such as supportive or other types of housing, school and training opportunities, daily activities, health and safety, medication support, harm reduction, money management and entitlements and service planning and coordination.

Assertive Community Treatment services may be mobile or delivered within an outpatient treatment setting, and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Assertive Community Treatment services vary in intensity, frequency, and duration in order to support the member’s ability to utilize behavioral health and medical services, manage functional difficulties, or otherwise realize recovery and resiliency goals.
Admission Criteria

- See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
- The member is diagnosed with one or more of the following Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) diagnoses listed in the DSM 5 that seriously impairs their functioning in the community.
  - Schizophrenia
  - Other psychotic disorder
  - Bipolar disorder
  - Major depressive disorder
  - These may also be accompanied by any of the following:
    - Substance use disorder
    - Developmental disability
  AND
- The member meets 2 or more of the following:
  - Two or more acute psychiatric hospitalization and/or four or more emergency room visits in the last six months.
  - Persistent and severe symptoms of a psychiatric disability that interferes with the ability to function in daily life.
  - Two or more interactions with law enforcement in the past year for emergency services due to mental illness or substance use (this includes involuntary commitment, ACT/Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT)).
  - Currently residing in an inpatient bed, but clinically assessed to be able to live in a more independent situation if intensive services were provided.
  - One or more incarcerations in the past year related to mental illness and/or substance use (FACT).
  - Psychiatric and judicial determination that FACT services are necessary to facilitate release from a forensic hospitalization or pre-trial to a lesser restrictive setting (FACT).
  - Recommendations by probation and parole, or a judge with a FACT screening interview, indicating services are necessary to prevent probation/parole violation (FACT).
  AND
- The member meets 1 of the following:
  - Inability to participate or remain engaged or respond to traditional community-based services.
  - Inability to meet basic survival needs, or residing in substandard housing, homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.
  - Services are necessary for diversion from forensic hospitalization, pretrial release or as a condition of probation to a lesser restrictive setting (FACT).
  AND
- The member meets 3 of the following:
  - Evidence of co-existing mental illness and substance use disorder.
  - Significant suicidal ideation, with a plan and ability to carry out within the last 2 years.
  - Suicide attempt in the last 2 years.
  - History of violence due to untreated mental illness/substance use within the last 2 years.
  - Lack of support systems.
  - History of inadequate follow-through with treatment plan, resulting in psychiatric or medical instability.
  - Threats of harm to others in the past 2 years.
  - History of significant psychotic symptomatology, such as command hallucinations to harm others.
  - Minimum LOCUS score of 3.
    - Exception: The member does not meet medical necessity criteria I or II, but is recommended as appropriate to receive ACT services by the funding agency or designee, the ACT team leader, clinical director and psychiatrist, in order to protect public safety and promote recovery from acute symptoms related to mental illness. Examples include those exiting institutions such as nursing facilities, prisons, and/or intermediate level inpatient psychiatric hospitals, or individuals with frequent incidence of emergency department (ED) presentations or involvement with crisis outreach.

Continuing Stay Criteria

- See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
• Service provision is based on a comprehensive history and assessment must be completed within 30 days of admission. These will include:
  o Psychiatric history, status and diagnosis.
  o Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS).
  o Telesage Outcomes Measurement System, as appropriate.
  o Psychiatric evaluation.
  o Housing and living situation.
  o Vocational, educational and social interests and capacities.
  o Self-care abilities.
  o Family and social relationships.
  o Family education and support needs.
  o Physical health.
  o Alcohol and drug use.
  o Personal and environmental resources.
  o Linkages with the forensic system for members involved in the judicial system, including items related to court orders, updated every 90 days or as new court orders are received.

• A service plan, responsive to the member’s preferences and choices must be developed and in place at the time services are rendered. The service plan will include input of all staff involved in treatment of the member, as well as involvement of the member and collateral others of the member’s choosing. The plan must contain the signature of the psychiatrist, the team leader involved in the treatment and the member (or documented refusal). The plan must consist of the following:
  o The member’s specific mental illness diagnosis.
  o Plans to address all psychiatric conditions.
  o The member’s treatment goals and objectives (including target dates), preferred treatment approaches and related services.
  o The member’s educational, vocational, social, wellness management, and residential or recreational goals, associated concrete and measurable objectives and related services.
  o The member’s goals and plans, and concrete and measurable objectives necessary for a person to get and keep their housing.
  o When psycho-pharmacological treatment is used, a specific service plan, including identification of target symptoms, medication, doses and strategies to monitor and promote commitment to medication must be used.
  o A crisis/relapse prevention plan, including and advance directive.
  o An integrated substance use and mental health service plan for individuals with co-occurring disorder (COD).
  o Any other items that are relevant for any specialized interventions, including linkages with the forensic system for consumers involved in the judicial system.

• ACT staff must be providing a minimum of 6 encounters with the member or collateral contacts monthly and must document clinically appropriate reasons if this minimum number of encounters cannot be made monthly. At least 50% of the encounters shall be with the member. Efforts shall be made to ensure services are provided throughout the month.

• At least 60% of all ACT team activities must be face-to-face, with approximately 90% to these encounters occurring outside of the office. The LOCUS, psychiatric evaluation and treatment plan must be updated every 6 months.

Discharge Criteria
  • See Common Discharge Criteria

Clinical Best Practices
  • See Common Clinical Best Practices

Exclusions
  • ACT services are comprehensive of all other services, with the exception of psychological evaluation or assessment and medication management.
  • ACT shall not be billed in conjunction with the following services:
    o Behavioral health services by licensed and unlicensed individuals, other than medication management and assessment.
    o Residential services, including professional resource family care.
COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRIC SUPPORT TREATMENT (CPST) is a comprehensive service which focuses on reducing the disability resulting from mental illness, restoring functional skills of daily living, building natural supports and solution-oriented interventions intended to achieve goals or objectives as set forth in the individualized treatment plan. CPST is a face-to-face intervention with the individual present; however, family or other collaterals also may be involved. A minimum of 51 percent of CPST contacts must occur in community locations where the person lives, works, attends school and/or socializes.

CPST may include the following components:

- Assist the member and family members or other collaterals to identify strategies or treatment options associated with the member’s mental illness, with the goal of minimizing the negative effects of mental illness symptoms or emotional disturbances or associated environmental stressors which interfere with the member’s daily living, financial management, housing, academic and/or employment progress, personal recovery or resilience, family and/or interpersonal relationships, and community integration.

- Individual supportive counseling, solution focused interventions, emotional and behavioral management, and problem behavior analysis with the member, with the goal of assisting the member with developing and implementing social, interpersonal, self-care, daily living, and independent living skills to restore stability, to support functional gains and adapt to community living.

- Participation in, and utilization of, strengths-based planning and treatments, which include assisting the member and family members or other collaterals to identify strengths and needs, resources, and natural supports and developing goals and objectives to use personal strengths, resources, and natural supports to address functional deficits associated with the member’s mental illness.

- Assist the member with effectively responding to or avoiding identified precursors or triggers that would risk the member remaining in a natural community location, including assisting the member and family members or other collaterals to identify a potential psychiatric or personal crisis, develop a crisis management plan, and/or as appropriate, to seek other supports to restore stability and functioning.

- Restoration, rehabilitation and support to develop skills to locate, rent and keep a home, landlord/tenant negotiations, selecting a roommate and renter’s rights and responsibilities.

- Assisting the individual to develop daily living skills specific to managing their own home, including managing their money, medications and using community resources and other self-care requirements.

Admission Criteria

- See Common Admission Criteria
- Services must be recommended by a licensed mental health professional (LMHP) or physician, or under the direction of a licensed practitioner.
- The member meets 1915(i) criteria for individuals 21 years and over.
- Members aged 19 and older must be assessed using the Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS).
- Members aged 6 through 18 must be assessed using the Child Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS). (CALOCUS is not required for members under the age of 6).
- The member meets medical necessity criteria for rehabilitation services for children under the age of 21.
- Services provided to children and youth must include communication and coordination with the family and/or legal guardian.
  - Coordination with other child-serving systems should occur, as needed, to achieve the treatment goals.
  - All coordination must be documented in the child/youth’s record.
• Providers must submit CALOCUS/LOCUS ratings on a form that includes the rating in each dimension, the criteria to support the rating, independent criteria, the composite score, the level of care, a section to document notes, a signature line with credentials, and a rating date.

Continuing Stay Criteria
• See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
  AND
• A CALOCUS/LOCUS rating must be completed and submitted every 180 days.

Discharge Criteria
• See Common Discharge Criteria
  AND
• A CALCOUS/LOCUS rating be completed and submitted at discharge. In the event a member is not available to conduct a final rating upon discharge, the provider should make a note in the member’s record and notify OPTUM. For the discharge rating, a comprehensive assessment is not required.

Clinical Best Practices
• See Common Clinical Best Practices

CRISIS INTERVENTION (CI)

CRISIS INTERVENTION (CI) services are provided to a person who is experiencing a psychiatric crisis and are designed to interrupt and/or ameliorate a crisis experience, via a preliminary assessment, immediate crisis resolution and de-escalation and referral and linkage to appropriate community services to avoid more restrictive levels of treatment. The goals of CIs are symptom reduction, stabilization and restoration to a previous level of functioning.

All activities must occur within the context of a potential or actual psychiatric crisis. CI is a face-to-face intervention and can occur in a variety of locations, including an emergency room or clinic setting, in addition to other community locations where the person lives, works, attends school and/or socializes and services.

Crisis Intervention includes the following components:
• A preliminary assessment of risk, mental status, and medical stability; and the need for further evaluation or other mental health services. Includes contact with the member, family members, or other collateral sources (e.g. caregiver, school personnel) with pertinent information for the purpose of a preliminary assessment, treatment and/or referral to other alternative mental health services at an appropriate level.
• Short-term Crisis Intervention includes crisis resolution and de-briefing with the member and the treatment provider.
• Follow-up with the member, and when appropriate, with the member’s caretaker and/or family members.
• Consultation with a physician or other qualified providers to assist with the member’s specific crisis.

Admission Criteria
• See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
• Services must be recommended by a licensed mental health professional (LMHP) or physician, or under the direction of a licensed practitioner.
  AND
• The member meets 1915(i) criteria for members 21 years and over.
  OR
• The member meets medical necessity criteria for rehabilitation services for members under the age of 21.
  OR
• The member has self-identified that he/she is experiencing an acute escalation of symptoms resulting in a level of distress that cannot be managed in the member’s current situation.
  OR
The member’s family members/collaterals who have knowledge of the crisis situation and the member’s typical level of functioning, present the member in need of crisis intervention.

**Continuing Stay Criteria**
- See Common Continuing Stay Criteria

**Discharge Criteria**
- See Common Discharge Criteria

**Clinical Best Practices**
- See Common Clinical Best Practices

### CRISIS STABILIZATION AND ASSESSMENT

**CRISIS STABILIZATION** Children and Adolescents
Crisis stabilization is intended to provide short-term and intensive supportive resources for youth and his/her family. The intent of this service is to provide an out-of-home crisis stabilization option for the family in order to avoid psychiatric inpatient and institutional treatment of the youth by responding to potential crisis situations. The goal will be to support the youth and family in ways that will address current acute and/or chronic mental health needs and coordinate a successful return to the family setting at the earliest possible time. During the time the crisis stabilization is supporting the youth, there is regular contact with the family to prepare for the youth’s return and his/her ongoing needs as part of the family. It is expected that the youth, family and crisis stabilization provider are integral members of the youth’s individual treatment team.

Crisis Stabilization includes the following components:
- A preliminary assessment of risk, mental status and medical stability and the need for further evaluation or other mental health services must be conducted. This includes contact with the member, family members or other collateral sources (e.g. caregiver, school personnel) with pertinent information for the purpose of a preliminary assessment and/or referral to other alternative mental health services at an appropriate level.
- Out of home short-term or extended intervention for the identified member based on initial and ongoing assessment of needs including crisis resolution and debriefing.
- Follow up with the member and with the member’s caretaker and/or family members.
- Consultation with a physician or with other qualified providers to assist with the member’s specific crisis.

**Admission Criteria**
- See Common Admission Criteria
  
  **AND**
  
  Services must be recommended by a licensed mental health professional (LMHP) or physician, or under the direction of a licensed practitioner.
  
  **AND**
  
  The member is eligible, through a Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) comprehensive screening, for enrollment in the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) program (Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), CSoC Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver eligible or CSoC Length of Need (LON) under 1915 (b)(3)).
  
  **AND**
  
  Services provided to children and youth include communication and coordination with the family and/or legal guardian, including any agency legally responsible for the care or custody of the child. Coordination with other child-serving systems occurs, as needed, to achieve the treatment goals and all coordination is documented in the member’s medical record.

**Continuing Stay Criteria**
- See Common Continuing Stay Criteria

**Discharge Criteria**
- See Common Discharge Criteria

**Clinical Best Practices**
See Common Clinical Best Practices

Exclusions

- Crisis stabilization is not provided simultaneously with short-term respite care and does not duplicate any other Medicaid State Plan service or service otherwise available to the recipient at no cost.

FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY (FFT)

FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY (FFT) is a systems-based model of prevention and intervention that incorporates various levels of the member’s interpersonal experiences to include cognitive, emotional and behavioral experiences, as well as interpersonal perspectives which focus on the family and other systems within the environment that impact the member and their family system.

FFT is a strengths-based model that emphasizes the use of existing resources of the member, their family and those of the involved multi-system. The goal is to foster resilience and decrease incidents of disruptive behavior. The service aims to reduce intense/negative behavioral patterns, improve family communication, parenting practices and problem-solving skills, and increase the family’s ability to access community resources.

FFT services target member between the ages of 10-18 primarily demonstrating significant externalizing behaviors or at risk for developing more severe behaviors, which affect family functioning. Behaviors include antisocial behavior or acts, violent behaviors and other behavioral issues that impair functioning. The member may also meet criteria for a disruptive behavior disorder (ADHD, ODD and/or conduct disorder). Members with other mental health conditions, such as Anxiety and Depression, may also be accepted as long as the existing condition manifests in outward behaviors that impact the family and multiple systems. Youth with substance use issues may be included if FFT is deemed clinically more appropriate than focused drug and alcohol treatment and acting out behaviors are present to the degree that function is impaired.

Admission Criteria

- See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
- The member is not in imminent or current risk of harm to self, others, and/or property.
  AND
- The member is 10-18 years old.
  AND
- At least one adult caregiver is available to provide support and is willing to be involved in treatment.
  AND
- The member’s DSM-5 diagnosis is the primary focus of treatment and symptoms and impairment are the result of a primary disruptive/externalizing behavior disorder, although internalizing psychiatric conditions and substance use disorders may be secondary.
  AND
- Functional impairment is not solely a result of pervasive developmental disorder or intellectual disability.
  AND
- The member displays externalizing behavior which adversely affects family functioning. The member’s behaviors may also affect functioning in other areas.
  AND
- The member’s interagency service planning team recommends that he/she participate in FFT.

Continuing Stay Criteria

- See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
  AND
- The member receives an average of 12 to 30 one-to-two hour sessions in the home or community depending the member’s needs over the course of 3-5 months.

Discharge Criteria

- See Common Discharge Criteria
AND
• The member and family demonstrate their ability to utilize resources within the community and demonstrate integration prior to discharge.

Clinical Best Practices
• See Common Clinical Best Practices

HOMEBUILDERS® is an intensive, in-home Evidence-Based Program (EBP) utilizing research based strategies (e.g. Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive and Behavioral Interventions, Relapse Prevention, Skills Training), for families with children (birth to 18 years) at imminent risk of out of home placement (requires a person with placement authority to state that the child is at risk for out of home placement without Homebuilders), or being reunified from placement. Homebuilders® is provided through the Institute for Family Development (IFD). Homebuilders® participants demonstrate the following characteristics:
• Children/youth with serious behavioral and/or emotional problems in the home, school, and/or community;
• Family members with substance abuse problems, mental health problems, poverty-related concerns (lack of adequate housing, clothing and/or food);
• Babies that were born substance-exposed or considered failure to thrive;
• Teenagers/adolescents that run away from home, have suicidal risk, have attendance and/or behavioral problems at school, have drug and alcohol use, and/or experience parent-teen conflict(s);
• Children/youth who have experienced abuse, neglect, or exposures to violence or other trauma.

The primary intervention components of the Homebuilders model are engaging and motivating family members, conducting holistic, behavioral assessments of strengths and problems, developing outcome-based goals. Therapists provide a wide range of counseling services using research-based motivation enhancement and cognitive behavioral interventions, teaching skills to facilitate behavior change and developing and enhancing ongoing supports and resources. In addition, therapists help families enhance their social support network and access basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing.

Admission Criteria
• See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
• The member is not in imminent or current risk of harm to self, others, and/or property.
  AND
• The family has a child/children ages birth to 18 years old at imminent risk of out of home placement due to at least one of the following:
  o Caregiver and/or child emotional/behavioral management problems
  o Trauma exposure
  o Incorrigibility
  o Academic problems
  o Delinquency
  o Truancy
  o Running away
  o Family conflict and violence
  o Poor/ineffective parenting skills
  o Single parent families
  o Sibling antisocial behavior
  o Parental/caregiver use of physical punishment, harsh, and/or erratic discipline practices
  o Substance use
  o Mental health concerns (depression/mood disorders, anxiety, etc.)
  o Additional topics such as: poverty, lack of education, substandard housing, lack of supports and resources
  AND
• Other than psychological evaluation or assessment and medication management, all behavioral health services are provided by Homebuilders.
  AND
• The member is not receiving residential services including professional resource family care.

**Continuing Stay Criteria**

• See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
  AND
• The member is receiving an average of 8 to 10 hours per week of face to face contact, with telephone contact between sessions. Services average 38 face to face hours. Therapists schedule sessions during the day, evening and on weekends with 3-5 or more sessions per week based on safety and intervention needs.
  AND
• Homebuilders’ therapists are available 24/7 for telephone and face to face crisis intervention.

**Discharge Criteria**

• See Common Discharge Criteria
• The duration of services is 4 to 6 weeks. Extensions beyond 4 weeks must be approved. Two aftercare 'booster sessions' totaling 5 hours are available in the 6 months following referral. Additional booster sessions may be approved.

**Clinical Best Practices**

• See Common Clinical Best Practices

**INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATION**

**INPATIENT HOSPITALIZATION** Children and Adolescents
A structured hospital-based program which provides 24-hour/7-day nursing care, medical monitoring, and physician availability; assessment and diagnostic services, active behavioral health treatment, and specialty medical consultation with an immediacy needed to avoid serious jeopardy to the health of the member or others.

The course of treatment in an inpatient setting is focused on addressing the factors that precipitated admission (e.g., changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, psychosocial and environmental factors, or level of functioning) to the point that the member’s condition can be safely, efficiently and effectively treated in a less intensive level of care.

**Admission Criteria**

• See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
• The precipitating factors leading to admission, and/or the member’s history of response to treatment suggest that there is imminent or current risk of harm to self, others, and/or property which cannot be safely, efficiently, and effectively managed in a less intensive level of care.
  Examples include the following:
  o A life-threatening suicide attempt;
  o Self-mutilation, injury or violence toward others or property;
  o Threat of serious harm to self or others;
  o Command hallucinations directing harm to self or others.
  OR
• The precipitating factors leading to admission suggest that the member’s condition cannot be safely, efficiently, and effectively treated in a less intensive setting due to a physical complication. Example include:
  o A physical cause for the member’s signs and symptoms cannot be ruled out in a less intensive setting.
  o A severe medication side effect requires the level of monitoring and intervention available in an inpatient setting.
  OR
• The precipitating factors leading to admission cannot be safely, efficiently, and effectively assessed and/or treated in a less intensive setting due to acute changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, and/or psychosocial and environmental factors. Examples include:
  o Acute impairment of behavior or cognition that interferes with activities of daily living to the extent that the welfare of the member or others is endangered.
• Psychosocial and environmental problems that threaten the member’s safety or undermines engagement in a less intensive level of care.

OR
• The precipitating factors which led to admission to Crisis Stabilization & Assessment or 23-Hour Observation cannot be addressed, and the member must be admitted to inpatient.

Continuing Stay Criteria
• See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
  AND
• Treatment is not primarily for the purpose of providing custodial care. Services are custodial when they are any of the following:
  o Non-health-related services, such as assistance with Activities of Daily Living (examples include feeding, dressing, bathing, transferring and ambulating);
  o Health-related services provided for the primary purpose of meeting the personal needs of the member or maintaining a level of function (even if the specific services are considered to be skilled services), as opposed to improving that function to an extent that might allow for a more independent existence;
  o Services that do not require continued administration by trained medical personnel in order to be delivered safely and effectively.

Discharge Criteria
• See Common Discharge Criteria

Clinical Best Practices
• See Common Clinical Best Practices

MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY (MST)
MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY (MST) provides an intensive home/family and community-based treatment for youth who are at risk of out-of-home placement or who are returning from out-of-home placement. The MST model is based on empirical data and evidence-based interventions that target specific behaviors with individualized behavioral interventions. Services are primarily provided in the home, but workers also intervene at school and in other community settings. All MST services must be provided to, or directed exclusively toward, the treatment of the Medicaid-eligible youth.

MST services are targeted for youth primarily demonstrating externalizing behaviors, such as conduct disorder, antisocial or illegal behavior or acts that lead to costly and, oftentimes, ineffective out-of-home services or excessive use of child-focused therapeutic support services. Depression and other disorders are considered, as long as the existing mental and BH issues manifest in outward behaviors that impact multiple systems (i.e., family, school, community). Youth with substance use issues may be included if they meet the criteria below, and MST is deemed clinically more appropriate than focused drug and alcohol treatment.

Admission Criteria
• See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
• The member is 12-17 years old.
  AND
• The member exhibits significant externalizing behavior, such as chronic or violent juvenile offenses.
  AND
• The member is at risk for out-of-home placement or is transitioning back from an out-of-home setting.
  AND
• The member has externalizing behaviors and symptomatology resulting in a DSM-5 diagnosis of Conduct Disorder or other diagnoses consistent with such symptomatology.
  AND
• There is ongoing multiple system involvement due to high risk behaviors and/or risk of failure in mainstream school settings due to behavioral problems.
AND
• Less intensive treatment has been ineffective or is inappropriate.
AND
• The member’s treatment planning team or CFT recommends that he/she participate in MST.
AND
• Functional impairment must not solely be a result of pervasive developmental disorder or mental retardation.

Continuing Stay Criteria
• See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
AND
• Treatment does not require more intensive level of care.
AND
• The treatment plan has been developed, implemented and updated based on the member’s clinical condition and response to treatment, as well as the strengths of the family, with realistic goals and objectives clearly stated.
AND
• Progress is clearly evident in objective terms, but goals of treatment have not yet been achieved, or adjustments in the treatment plan to address the lack of progress are evident.
AND
• The family is actively involved in treatment, or there are active, persistent efforts being made which are expected to lead to engagement in treatment.

Discharge Criteria
• See Common Discharge Criteria
AND
• The member’s treatment plan goals or objectives have been substantially met.
AND
• The member meets criteria for a higher or lower level of treatment, care or services.
AND
• The member, family, guardian and/or custodian are not engaging in treatment or not following program rules and regulations, despite attempts to address barriers to treatment.
AND
• Consent for treatment has been withdrawn, or the member and/or family have not benefitted from MST, despite documented efforts to engage, and there is no reasonable expectation of progress at this level of care, despite treatment.

Clinical Best Practices
• See Common Clinical Best Practices
• MST services may not be clinically appropriate for individuals who meet the following conditions:
  o Members who meet the criteria for out-of-home placement due to suicidal, homicidal or psychotic behavior.
  o Members living independently or members whom a primary caregiver cannot be identified despite extensive efforts to locate all extended family, adult friends or other potential surrogate caregivers.
  o The referral problem is limited to serious sexual misbehavior.
  o The member has a primary diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder or Intellectual Disability.
  o Low-level need cases.
  o Members who have previously received MST services or other intensive family- and community-based treatment.

Exclusions
• MST services are comprehensive of all other services, with the exception of psychological evaluation or assessment and medication management.
• MST shall not be billed in conjunction with residential services, including professional resource family care.
OUTPATIENT SERVICES

OUTPATIENT SERVICES are assessment and diagnosis and active behavioral health treatment that are provided in an ambulatory setting. The course of treatment in Outpatient is focused on addressing the factors that precipitated admission (e.g., changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, psychosocial and environmental factors, or level of functioning) to the point that the factors that precipitated admission no longer require treatment.

Admission Criteria

- See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
- The member is not in imminent or current risk of harm to self, others, and/or property.
  AND
- Acute changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, and/or psychosocial and environmental factors (i.e., the factors leading to admission) have occurred, and the member’s current condition can be safely, efficiently, and effectively assessed and/or treated in this setting.

Continuing Stay Criteria

- See Common Continuing Stay Criteria

Discharge Criteria

- See Common Discharge Criteria

Clinical Best Practices

- See Common Clinical Best Practices

PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY (PRTF)

PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITY (PRTF) A sub-acute facility-based program which delivers 24-hour/7-day assessment and diagnostic services, and active psychiatric treatment under the direction of a physician to members under the age of 21 who have functional impairments resulting from a behavioral health condition that have not responded to treatment in other community settings.

The course of treatment in a PRTF is focused on addressing the factors that precipitated admission (e.g., changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, psychosocial and environmental factors, or level of functioning) to the point that the member’s condition can be safely, efficiently and effectively treated in a less intensive level of care and/or restore the member to his/her best possible functioning level in the community.

Admission Criteria

- See Common Admission Criteria
  AND
- The member’s current signs and symptoms meet criteria for a psychiatric DSM diagnosis.
  AND
- Ambulatory care resources available in the community do not meet the member’s treatment needs.
  AND
- There is a substantial risk of harm to self or others, or the member is unable to care for his or her own physical health and safety so as to create a danger to his or her life.
  AND
- The factors that precipitated admission indicate that the member requires assistance with restoring skills and abilities essential to functioning. Examples of functional impairment include:
  o Severely impaired social, familial, academic or occupational functioning which may include excessive use of alcohol or drugs.
  o Severely maladaptive or destructive behaviors in school, home, or placement which may include excessive use of alcohol or drugs.
  o Extreme impulsivity demonstrating limited ability to delay gratification.
  o Sexual acting-out that is harmful to self or others, and/or is age inappropriate.
  o A history of running away which puts the member or others at risk.
  AND
• Proper treatment of the member’s behavioral health condition requires PRTF services under the
direction of a physician.
AND
• PRTF services can be reasonably expected to improve the member’s condition or prevent further
regression so that services will no longer be needed.

Continuing Stay Criteria
• See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
AND
• The admission criteria continue to be met and active treatment is being provided.
AND
• Clinical best practices are being provided with sufficient intensity to address the member’s
treatment needs.
AND
• The services are provided within the context of the family, not as an isolated unit and be
appropriate for the member’s:
  o Age;
  o Development;
  o Education; and
  o Culture

Discharge Criteria
• See Common Discharge Criteria
AND
• The member has reached age 22.
OR
• PRTF goals have been met.
OR
• PRTF goals have not been met; the member is transferred to another inpatient behavioral health
or medical service.
OR
• PRTF goals have not been met; the member or member’s guardian chooses to discontinue
services.
OR
• The member is placed in a correctional facility, or removed from treatment and placed for longer
than 72 hours while awaiting a court hearing.
OR
• The member has run away from the facility and is gone for 7 consecutive calendar days with the
facility having no knowledge of when the member may return.
OR
• The member has died.

Clinical Best Practices
• See Common Clinical Best Practices

PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION (PSR)

Psychosocial rehabilitation services are designed to assist the individual with compensating for or
eliminating functional deficits and interpersonal and/or environmental barriers associated with their
mental illness. Activities included must be intended to achieve the identified goals or objectives as set
forth in the individual’s individualized treatment plan. The intent of PSR is to restore the fullest
possible integration of the individual as an active and productive member of his or her family,
community and/or culture with the least amount of ongoing professional intervention. PSR is a face-
to-face intervention with the individual present. Services may be provided individually or in a group
setting. A minimum of 51% of a PSR’s contacts must occur in community locations where the person
lives, works, attends school and/or socializes.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation is focused on addressing the factors that precipitated the need for this
service (e.g., changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, psychosocial and environmental factors,
or level of functioning) to the point that the member’s condition can be safely, efficiently and effectively treated without the support of Psychosocial Rehabilitation.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation is provided in conjunction with traditional pharmacologic and psychosocial treatments.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation services vary in intensity, frequency, and duration in order to support the member’s ability to manage functional difficulties, and realize recovery and resiliency goals.

Admission Criteria
- See Common Admission Criteria
- The member is not in imminent or current risk of harm to self or others and/or property.
- The factors that precipitated admission (e.g., changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, psychosocial and environmental factors, or level of functioning) indicate that the member requires assistance with accessing treatment and/or community resources. Examples include:
  - Education or work;
  - Finances;
  - Housing;
  - Health/medical;
  - Social needs;
  - Basic living skills;
  - Legal needs.
- Services provided to children and youth must include communication and coordination with the family and/or legal guardian. Coordination with other child-serving systems should occur, as needed, to achieve the treatment goals.

Continuing Stay Criteria
- See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
- All coordination activities must be documented in the member’s medical record. Time spent in face-to-face communication and coordination with the child’s family/legal guardian is billable as long as the member is present.

Discharge Criteria
- See Common Discharge Criteria

Clinical Best Practices
- See Common Clinical Best Practices

THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE (TFC) Therapeutic Foster Care provides a structured home environment in which specifically trained foster parents teach social, behavioral, and emotional skills to children and adolescents who are at risk of placement, or who have complex and significant behavioral health problems which cannot be managed at home. The course of treatment is focused on addressing the member’s condition to the point that the member’s condition can be safely, efficiently and effectively treated in a less intensive level of care or no longer requires treatment. The member’s condition includes consideration of the acute and chronic symptoms in the member’s history and presentation, including co-occurring behavioral health or medical conditions, informed by information collected by the provider following evaluation and treatment planning as described in Common Clinical Best Practices.

Placements in a therapeutic foster home are usually limited to two youths per family. Whenever appropriate, Therapeutic Foster Care supports family permanence by also training the parent(s)/guardian(s) to manage the member’s needs and behavior, and by providing case management.
Therapeutic Foster Care varies in intensity and duration in order to support the member’s ability to manage functional difficulties and enhance the member’s resiliency.

**Admission Criteria**
- See Common Admission Criteria
- The member is not in imminent or current risk of harm to self, others, and/or property.
- The factors that precipitated access to this service (e.g., changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, psychosocial and environmental factors, or level of functioning) indicate that the member cannot be suitably cared for in the member’s home. Examples include:
  - The member is at risk for placement.
  - The member has complex and significant behavioral health problems that cannot be managed by the member’s family or caregiver.

**Continuing Stay Criteria**
- See Common Continuing Stay Criteria

**Discharge Criteria**
- See Common Discharge Criteria

**Clinical Best Practices**
- See Common Clinical Best Practices

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**THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOME**

**THERAPEUTIC GROUP HOME Children and Adolescents**

A Therapeutic Group Home provides a community-based residential service in a home-like setting of no greater than 10 beds under the supervision and program oversight of a psychiatrist or psychologist.

The treatment should be targeted to support the development of adaptive and functional behaviors that will enable the child or adolescent to remain successfully in his/her home and community and to regularly attend and participate in work, school or training.

The course of treatment in an inpatient setting is focused on addressing the factors that precipitated admission (e.g., changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, psychosocial and environmental factors, or level of functioning) to the point that the member’s condition can be safely, efficiently and effectively treated in a less intensive level of care.

**Admission Criteria**
- See Common Admission Criteria
- The member is eligible for benefitsiv.
- The member’s current condition cannot be safely, efficiently and effectively assessed and/or treated in a less intensive setting due to changes in the member’s signs and symptoms, level of functioning, and/or psychosocial and environmental factors (i.e., the “why now” factor leading the member to admission).
  - Failure of treatment in a lower level of care is not a prerequisite for authorizing coverage.
- The member requires active treatment with 24-hour supervision/oversight by professional behavioral health staff that is not able to be provided at a less restrictive level of care.
- The setting is geographically situated to allow ongoing participation of the child’s family.
- The child or adolescent attends a school in the community (e.g., a school integrated with children not from the group home and not on the group home’s campus).
• The member remains involved in community-based activities and may attend educational, vocational or other treatments in the community.
AND
• The TGH coordinates with the child’s or adolescent’s community resources, including schools, with the goal of transitioning the youth out of the program to a less restrictive care setting.
AND
• The member is not in imminent risk of harm to self or others and/or property. AND
• Co-occurring behavioral health or physical conditions can be safely managed.

Continuing Stay Criteria
• See Common Continuing Stay Criteria
AND
• The admission criteria are still met.
AND
• Services continue to be medically necessary.
AND
• The precipitating factors leading to admission have been identified and are integrated into the treatment plan.
AND
• Best practices are being provided timely with sufficient intensity to address the member’s needs.
AND
• Treatment is focused on:
  o Reducing the behavior and symptoms of the psychiatric disorder that necessitated the removal of the child or adolescent from his/her usual living situation.
  o Decreasing problem behavior and increasing developmentally appropriate, normative and pro-social behavior.
  o Transitioning the child or adolescent from TGH to home or community-based living, with outpatient treatment (e.g., individual and family therapy).

Discharge Criteria
• See Common Discharge Criteria

Clinical Best Practices
• See Common Clinical Best Practices

REFERENCES


REVISION HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action/Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/09/2018</td>
<td>• Combined previously separate LOCGs into one document</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST). Some previous admission criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Action/Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>08/19/2019</td>
<td>were moved to best practices and the exception section was added.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Updates to the following per state language for 2019:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Admission Common Criteria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Assertive Community Treatment Admission Criteria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Therapeutic Group Homes number of beds</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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1 Optum is a brand used by United Behavioral Health and its affiliates.
2 Behavior treatment plan template can be found at [www.lamedicaid.com](http://www.lamedicaid.com). It is included in the Applied Behavior Analysis Provider Manual.
3 Face-to-face for CPST includes a therapist in a different room/location from the member/family, but in the same building, with real-time visual and audio transmission from the therapy room and two-way audio transmission between member and/or family member and therapist. Must be provided by licensed or qualified MA-level staff. MA-level staff must have appropriate licensed mental health professional oversight when providing treatment through real-time visual and audio transmission. The practice must be in accord with documented Evidence Based Practices or promising practices approved by the Office of Behavioral Health.
4 According to Louisiana Administrative Code Subpart 13; Chapter 121(12103): The member is under the age of 21 and meets Medicaid eligibility and clinical criteria.