

CHELAN-DOUGLAS RSN/PIHP POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL	Chapter: 2.7.2
Title: MANAGED CARE SERVICES	Page: 1 of 2
	Date Effective: June 21, 2007
Subject: SERVICE AUTHORIZATION for Services Related to State Mental Health Contract Funding.	Date Revised:
	Authorizing Signature:

AUTHORITY: 42CFR438.207(a)
State Mental Health Contract

SCOPE: This policy applies to Chelan-Douglas Regional Support Network/Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (CDRSN/PIHP) and its contractors (agencies/providers), and subcontractors (referred to as contractors or agencies or providers throughout this policy).

PURPOSE: To ensure that services are authorized by a qualified mental health professional based on medical necessity and the Access to Care Standards.

DEFINITIONS: Medical Necessity: A term used to describe a requested service which is reasonably calculated to prevent, diagnose, correct, cure, alleviate or prevent the worsening of conditions in the recipient that endanger life, or cause suffering or pain, or result in illness or infirmity, or threaten to cause or aggravate a handicap, or cause physical deformity or malfunction, and there is no other equally effective, more conservative or substantially less costly course of treatment available or suitable for the person requesting service.

Qualified mental health professional: As defined in WAC 388-865-0150:

- (1) A psychiatrist, psychologist, psychiatric nurse or social worker as defined in chapter 71.05 and 71.34 RCW;
- (2) A person with a masters degree or further advanced degree in counseling or one of the social sciences from an accredited college or university. Such person shall have, in addition, at least two years of experience in direct treatment of persons with mental illness or emotional disturbance, such experience gained under the supervision of a mental health professional;
- (3) A person who meets the waiver criteria of RCW 71.24.260, which was granted prior to 1986.

- (4) A person who had an approved waiver to perform the duties of a mental health profession that was requested by the regional support network and granted by the mental health division prior to July 1, 2001; or
- (5) A person who has been granted a time-limited exception of the minimum requirements of a mental health professional by the mental health division consistent with WAC 388-865-265.

POLICY: The Chelan-Douglas RSN/PIHP expends funds provided under the SMH contract specifically for contractually required provision of emergency/crisis services; services to assist in the management and reduction of inpatient psychiatric services; exclusively residential services such as transitional housing, hospital diversion and long term residential services. Required follow-up services for non-Medicaid Enrollees for court ordered Least Restrictive Alternatives are provided under the emergency service contract.

PROCEDURE: See Policy and Procedure 2.9 for residential authorization process.

All individuals who request or require emergency/crisis services, shall receive them regardless of ability to pay or form of payment.