

Definition of Serious Mental Illness for Health Home Eligibility

In New York State, Medicaid recipients who are determined to have Serious Mental Illness (SMI) are eligible for participation in Health Homes. The designation of SMI allows health home services to be delivered to people with mental illness who have difficulty functioning successfully in their relationship, jobs, schools, and other life roles within their chosen community.

While definitions of SMI differ in detail, both within New York State and nationally, there are two core components that are determinative of SMI: 1. a mental illness diagnosis, and 2. a functional impairment secondary to mental illness. It is the functional impairment caused by a mental illness diagnosis that is the crucial qualifier for SMI. In fact, any diagnosis, particularly when combined with other mental illness diagnoses or with substance use diagnoses, could result in functional impairment sufficient to qualify a recipient as an individual with an SMI. Nonetheless, it is reasonable to segregate a list of qualifying diagnoses for tailored SMI services such as Health Homes, and many states do this. Yet, not all recipients who have qualifying diagnoses will meet the functional criteria for SMI.

Drawing from a review of operational diagnoses for SMI both within and outside of New York State, the following definition is proposed for the purpose of determining Health Home eligibility for SMI recipients.

To be considered an individual with a serious mental illness, a person must have at least one of the diagnoses set forth in Section 1 and at least one of the functional impairments set forth in Section 2 resulting from such diagnosis.

Section 1. Qualifying DSM 4-R/ICD 9 diagnoses:

Psychotic Disorders: 295.10, 295.20, 295.30, 295.60, 295.70, 297.1, 295.90, 298.9

Bipolar Disorders: 296.00, 296.01, 296.02, 296.03, 296.04, 296.05, 296.06, 296.40, 296.41, 296.42, 296.43, 296.44, 296.45, 296.46, 296.50, 296.51, 296.52, 296.53, 296.54, 296.55, 296.56, 296.60, 296.61, 296.62, 296.63, 296.64, 296.65, 296.66, 296.7, 296.80, 296.89

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders: 300.3

Major Depressions: 296.20, 296.21, 296.22, 296.23, 296.24, 296.25, 296.26, 296.30, 296.31, 296.32, 296.33, 296.34, 296.35, 296.36

Other Mood Disorders: 296.90, 300.4, 301.13, 311

Anxiety Disorders: 300.00, 300.01, 300.02, 300.14, 300.21, 300.22, 309.81

Personality Disorders: 301.0, 301.20, 301.22, 301.4, 301.50, 301.5, 301.81, 301.82, 301.83, 301.9

Section 2. Extended impairment in functioning: a recipient is determined to meet one or more of the criteria listed below as a result of their qualifying diagnosis:

- (a) Marked difficulties in self-care such as personal hygiene, diet, clothing, avoiding injuries, securing health care, or complying with medical advice; or
- (b) Marked restrictions of activities of daily living such as maintaining a residence, getting and maintaining a job, attending school, using transportation, day-to-day money management, or accessing community service; or
- (c) Marked difficulties in maintaining social functioning such as establishing and maintaining social relationships, interpersonal interactions with primary partners, children and other family members, friends, or neighbors, social skills, compliance with social norms, or appropriate use of leisure time; or
- (d) Frequent deficiencies of concentration, persistence, or pace resulting in failure to complete tasks in a timely manner in work, home, or school setting. Individuals may exhibit limitations in these areas when they repeatedly are unable to complete simple tasks within an established time period, make frequent errors in task, or require assistance in the completion of tasks.