

Eligibility Criteria

Admission Criteria

Specific criteria are used during the initial screening process to determine eligibility. Assignments are then prioritized based on presenting needs, acuity, therapist/program availability, and payor source restrictions, if any.

Discharge Criteria

Clients will be routinely discharged from mental health outpatient services after their treatment has reached the degree that the client has achieved their goals as stated on their treatment plan or when the client decides to discontinue services. This will be a collaborative decision between the client, the therapist and other persons directly involved in the client's treatment.

Discharge from outpatient services after formal admission may also occur if the client has failed to make and keep at least one appointment with the therapist within a year from the date of the latest treatment plan and/or psychosocial assessment.

Transition Criteria

Upon admission, a client may be scheduled for involvement in any and all appropriate services, to be coordinated by the assigned therapist or case manager. Subsequent transition/linking coordination and/or transfer may be accomplished at any point in the service delivery. A transition occurs when there is a reassignment of the client to another level of care or to another program within the agency. Transitions are developed with the input and participation of the person served or their guardian and others as deemed as appropriate. Requests may be initiated by the assigned therapist or case manager or at the request of the client.

Readmission Criteria

Clients returning to services will follow the same admission criteria as a new client. Specific criteria are used during the initial screening process to determine eligibility. Assignments are then prioritized based on presenting needs, acuity, therapist/program availability, and payor source restrictions, if any.

Exclusionary or Ineligibility Criteria

Persons who are found to be ineligible for services are given the reasons and directed to alternative or more appropriate services. The referral source is provided with information about the ineligibility with the consent of the person. In some situations, the referral source is providing the information for the screening and will be informed as to reasons for ineligibility without specific consent.

Persons may be ineligible for admission to outpatient mental health services if:

- a. Another level of care is indicated
- b. There have been any documented threats or actions made against agency or agency personnel or if there is reason to believe the threats are still current.
- c. There is a history of aggression or violence that is determined to be a present risk to personnel or other clients.
- d. Psychiatric/behavioral problem is the direct result of a medical condition or illness. Referral to another level of care may be indicated.
- e. NMS does not provide the appropriate services for the presenting issue.