



Montana Healthcare Programs Provider Notice

June 16, 2026

Effective Immediately

Informational

Mental Health Center, Targeted Case Management (Mental Health), Substance Use Disorders Providers

Clarification Regarding Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and Adult Mental Health (MH) Targeted Case Management (TCM) Medical Necessity Criteria

Effective immediately, the Department is exercising regulatory discretion of certain Medical Necessity Criteria for the following Medicaid services:

- [Policy 405 MH Targeted Case Management](#)

(1) Member must meet the Severe and Disabling Mental Illness (SDMI) criteria as described in this manual and:

(a) the member/representative gives consent and agrees to participate in TCM;

~~(b) the need for TCM must be documented by a licensed clinical mental health professional; and~~

~~(c) the member is receiving other adult mental health or substance use disorder services.~~

a.

- [Policy 510 SUD Targeted Case Management](#)

(1) Member must meet the SUD criteria as described in this manual and:

(a) the member/representative gives consent and agrees to participate in TCM;

~~(b) the need for TCM must be documented by a licensed professional; and~~

~~(c) The member is receiving other adult mental health or substance use disorder services.~~

The current policies exceed the criteria described in the approved Medicaid State Plan Amendments (SPA). The Department's intent is to align with the approved SPAs. Members must still meet the diagnostic criteria, but do NOT need to receive other MH or SUD services to qualify for Adult MH or SUD TCM services indicated in (1)(c). If a member has had a clinical assessment and meets the SDMI or SUD criteria, the assessment would be performed by a licensed professional and therefore meet (1)(b).

These criteria create unnecessary barriers to care. TCM is intended to help members access the services and supports they need, including individuals who may not yet be fully engaged in treatment. Members must have freedom of choice. Requiring concurrent behavioral health services removes this freedom of choice.

The Department will pursue formal rulemaking to update policy language accordingly. Additional guidance and formal policy updates will be shared as rulemaking progresses.

All provider and service requirements must be adhered to and are outlined in the [BHDD Medicaid Services Provider Manual, effective July 1, 2025](#).

Contact and Website Information

- BHDD Adult Behavioral Health Program Officer, (406) 444-9330, email Chelsey.Hallsten@mt.gov
- BHDD Adult Behavioral Health/ SUD Program Officer, (406) 202-9451, email Ashley.Bair@mt.gov

For claims questions or additional information, contact Montana Provider Relations at (800) 624-3958 or (406) 442-1837 or email [Montana Provider Relations Helpdesk](#).

Visit the [Montana Healthcare Programs Provider Information website](#) to access your provider type page. Choose Resources by Provider Type in the left-hand menu.

Visit the [Contact Us page](#) on the Provider Information website for additional DPHHS contact numbers.