



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental  
Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

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## **LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin #J325**

**Date:** May 17, 2019

**To:** Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LMEs-MCOs)

**From:** Kathy Nichols, Assistant Director of Policies and Programs, DMH/DD/SAS  
Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid

**Subject:** I/DD Eligibility for State-Funded Services

This bulletin clarifies the requirements for state funds to be used for the provision of services to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) based on findings identified during Clinical Monitoring of State-Funded & Social Services Block Grant Funded I/DD Services by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS).

This bulletin addresses the requirement of a valid psychological assessment and diagnostic requirements (including the age at which the diagnosis was confirmed), and provisions for legacy beneficiaries. The following guidance is issued as it relates to determining I/DD eligibility for state-funded services:

- In accordance with GS 122C-3 (12a), the individual needs supporting documentation to reflect an I/DD diagnosis prior to the age of 22, unless the disability is caused by a traumatic head injury and is manifested after age 22 in order to be eligible for I/DD state-funded services.
- School records may not suffice as evidence to support that an individual has an I/DD diagnosis, unless the school record includes a diagnosis by a licensed clinician whose scope of practice includes diagnosing I/DD through the use of appropriate psychological testing. Some individuals receive special education services and accommodations for related needs that fall outside of an I/DD diagnosis. While school records may support the determination of deficits in functional limitations, they may not be utilized solely as a method of determining an I/DD diagnosis. The only exception would be in the event there is a psychological assessment completed by a school system that clearly notates an I/DD diagnosis.
- In order to receive services for I/DD, there must be a valid IDD diagnosis from a licensed clinician whose scope includes diagnosing I/DD through the use of appropriate psychological testing. Psychological assessments/evaluations should note an I/DD diagnosis prior to the age of 22.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

LOCATION: 306 N. Wilmington Street, Bath Building, Raleigh, NC 27601  
MAILING ADDRESS: 3001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-3001  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-733-7011 • FAX: 919-508-0951

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- Records from service provider agencies may have language regarding functional limitations; however, functional limitations cannot be used to document an I/DD diagnosis. Treatment from providers is typically based on functional limitations determined during an evaluation or assessment. Psychological assessments/evaluations or an assessment completed by a licensed clinician authorized to diagnose is required to reflect an I/DD diagnosis that can be utilized for eligibility requirements.
- Legacy beneficiaries (individuals who actively received state-funded services prior to 2012) will likely be affected by this eligibility criteria. In the event an authorization for a legacy beneficiary lapses, the LME-MCO is able to reauthorize services based on the individual having previously received services. Documentation of this reauthorization should be maintained by the LME-MCO in the beneficiary's record.
- It is recommended that LME-MCOs communicate with psychologists regarding the information needed on psychological evaluations conducted both before and after the age of 22. Language that documents an I/DD diagnosis being lifelong or occurring before the age of 22 supports the documentation required for individuals with I/DD conditions to receive state-funded services.

If additional technical assistance is needed, please contact LaToya Chancey, I/DD Team Lead, at (919) 715-2256 or [latoya.chancey@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:latoya.chancey@dhhs.nc.gov).

Previous bulletins can be accessed at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins>

cc: Kody Kinsley, DMH/DD/SAS  
Dave Richard, NC Medicaid  
Helen Wolstenholme, DSOHF  
DMH/DD/SAS Leadership Team  
NC Medicaid Leadership Team  
Mary Hooper, i2i Center for Integrative Health