



Child/Adolescent Therapeutic Group Home (OBHL¹ Level III) Admission and Continued Stay Authorization Criteria Attachment 3.14.6

A. Purpose

These are psychiatric services provided by an OBHL licensed Level III behavioral health agency as set forth in 9 A.A.C. 20. These settings provide continuous 24 hour supervision by professional staff and intermittent treatment to children/adolescents who are determined to be capable of some independent functioning but still need therapeutic oversight.

Individuals appropriate for this setting demonstrate an impairment of functioning as a result of a DSM-IV-TR diagnosis (within the range of 290 through 316.99); the individual has a history of harm to self or others, or mild to moderate disturbance of mood, thought, or behavior which renders him/her incapable of developmentally appropriate self care or self regulation.

The child's/adolescent's treatment goals in the facility must be **focused** on the signs and symptoms of the psychiatric disorder that necessitated the removal of the child/adolescent from his/her usual living situation. **These treatment goals and tentative discharge plan must be defined prior to admission.** Services provided by Level III facilities are not sufficient to stand alone and must be augmented by medically necessary behavioral health outpatient treatment that, in combination with the facility's program, assists the child/adolescent in achieving goals for discharge. It is not expected that all behavioral or psychological difficulties will be resolved at the time of discharge from the facility. An active treatment plan aims to return the child/adolescent to his/her customary environment at the earliest possible time.

Admissions to Level III facilities are not urgent or emergent and are always prior authorized. A decision to prior authorize admission into a Level III residential treatment facility will be made within 7 business days. Prior authorization for initial admission to a Level III residential treatment facility is valid for up to 60 days, and re-authorization for continued stay is valid for up to 60 days.

B. Behavior and Functioning Required for Admission

All of the following are required:

- 1) The child/adolescent presents with signs and symptoms of a psychiatric disorder which is consistent with a DSM- IV-TR diagnosis (within the range of 290 through 316.99).
 - a) A sole diagnosis of ADHD or Conduct Disorder with in and of itself does not warrant psychiatric out-of-home treatment and requires further clinical review.
 - b) Runaway behavior is an insufficient justification for admission to any level of out of home treatment as an isolated behavior.
- 2) The child/adolescent requires a continuous 24 hour setting supervised by professional staff.
- 3) Any present medical condition can be safely managed within the Level III Group Home setting.
- 4) Psychiatric treatment needs do not exceed what a Level III Group Home program provides or prevent the child/adolescent from attending public school, with special education resources if necessary.

¹ OBHL: Office of Behavioral Health Licensure, Therapeutic Group Homes (TGHs) as set forth in 9 A.A.C. 20



Child/Adolescent Therapeutic Group Home (OBHL¹ Level III) Admission and Continued Stay Authorization Criteria Attachment 3.14.6

- 5) Medically necessary outpatient behavioral health services do not meet the treatment needs of the child/adolescent and there is documentation of a failure to respond or an inability to be safely managed in a less restrictive level of care.
- 6) The admission should not be used primarily and therefore clinically inappropriately as:
 - a) an alternative to preventative detention or as a means to ensure community safety in a child/adolescent exhibiting primarily delinquent/antisocial behavior; or
 - b) the equivalent of safe housing or permanent placement; or
 - c) an alternative to parents'/guardians' or other agencies' capacity to provide an alternative place of residency for the child/adolescent, or
 - d) an intervention when other less restrictive alternatives are available and meet the child's/adolescent's treatment needs

C. Continued Stay Criteria

There is documented evidence of all of the following:

- 1) Active treatment, only available at this level of care, is being provided by the facility on a 24 hour basis with direct supervision/oversight by professional behavioral health staff; and
- 2) The treatment is reducing the severity of the behavioral health issue that was identified as the reason for admission; and
- 3) The Child and Family Team has met every 2 weeks or more frequently, if clinically indicated, to review progress and revise the service plan to address any lack of progress; and
- 4) There is an expectation that continued treatment can reasonably be expected to improve or stabilize the child's/adolescent's condition so that this type of service will no longer be needed.

D. Discharge Criteria

To be considered for discharge from a Level III residential facility, a child/adolescent will meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) There is a written plan for discharge with specific discharge criteria, written as behaviorally measurable goals.
- 2) There is documentation that the Child and Family Team are involved in the writing of the discharge plan. Development of the discharge plan should occur prior to admission via this process.
- 3) The plan complies with current standards for medically necessary covered behavioral health services, cost effectiveness, and least restrictive environment and is in conformance with federal and state clinical practice guidelines.
- 4) The child's/adolescent's treatment plan goals identified at admission specific to this level of care have been accomplished; **OR** the child/adolescent is not making progress toward treatment goals and there is no reasonable expectation of progress at this level of care.