

## Level of Care - Early Onset

As discussed during the May 25th behavioral health web-meeting with MCOs, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has added a new level of care for Mental Health Targeted Case Management and Mental Health Rehabilitative Services that will be effective July 1st, 2016 called "Level of Care - Early Onset (LOC-EO)." Information for this Level of Care is included in the attached document. It is currently reflected in the Children's Mental Health Utilization Management (UM) Guidelines and will be included in the Adult Mental Health UM guidelines during the next update. This level of care is for Coordinated Specialty Care Programs (CCS) that were created to specifically assist individuals experiencing their first episode of psychosis. The CSC model is team-based and provides a comprehensive selection of treatment and support services to keep individuals on the path to recovery. LOC-EO was created to describe the eligibility guidelines and services offered within each CSC Program.

LOC-EO will be administered only by Local Mental Health Authorities and providers of Local Behavioral Health Authorities. Services within the level of care should be delivered consistent with all MCO requirements governing the provision of Mental Health Targeted Case Management and Mental Health Rehabilitative Services. This level of care is not a new Medicaid benefit, but rather a new level of care within the UM guidelines currently governing the provision of Mental Health Targeted Case Management and Mental Health Rehabilitative Services. For any questions, please contact [Allen.Pittman@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Allen.Pittman@hhsc.state.tx.us).

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Attachment included in the email.

## Level of Care – Early Onset (LOC-EO)

### *Purpose for Level of Care<sup>1</sup>*

The purpose of LOC-EO is to provide a specialized treatment approach for those experiencing their first episode of psychosis. Individuals in this level of care will have a diagnosis that includes psychotic features and will vary in terms of need and severity. The Early Onset LOC's goal is to identify and help individuals before their symptoms and/or diagnosis are the primary feature of his/her life. Due to the early

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<sup>1</sup> This LOC will be listed as LOC-CEO if the individual is under the age of 18. The LOC is listed as LOC-AEO if the individual is over the age of 18. They are known collectively as LOC-EO. LOC-EO is only allowed to those centers participating as a pilot site for the Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) for First Episode of Psychosis program.

intervention model, many individuals may be entering behavioral health services for the first time and require a comprehensive array of services be available.

The team-based approach is a vital aspect of the assistance an individual will receive when they participate in LOC-EO. CSC Teams are trained in the Coordinated Specialty Care model and provide an individual with all of the clinical and support services so care is provided efficiently and with a focus on recovery.

### *Level of Care Assignment/Deviation Criteria*

#### **The admission criteria to be met are:**

- The individual must be between the ages of 15 and 30.
- The individual must have a diagnosis that contains psychosis that was first given within the last two years.
- Individual must live in the service area of a pilot site.

### *Special Considerations Regarding Peers and Recovery*

SAMHSA recognizes peer services as a critical component to the recovery process. DSHS endeavors to facilitate processes that acknowledge this role. As such, the following recommendations highlight how peers and/or family partners might be best utilized within this level of service:

- Share individual experience related to recovery and act as a model of hope and resilience.
- Provide education about the recovery process.
- Promote social integration by educating about resources in the community that may support continued recovery, such as individual-operated service providers, mutual aid groups, social organizations related to the individual's interests, health clubs, etc.
- Provide medication training and support as appropriate.
- Provide education about the Early Onset Program.
- Provide Engagement interventions to individuals to foster full participation in treatment.
- Certified Peer Specialists and/or Certified Family Partners may serve as a member of the treatment team offering feedback to other providers regarding his or her observations of an individual's stage of recovery and/or efforts made towards fulfilling the individual's recovery goals.

Note: All the tasks identified in this section are services/assistance that can be provided by any treatment-providing staff with the exception of peer-specific functions, such as shared individual experience.

### *Expected Outcomes*

The following outcome(s) can be expected as a result of delivering services at this LOC:

- The individual receiving services reports stabilization of symptoms or maintenance of stability.
- The individual will develop additional skills needed to continue working toward, maintaining or achieving recovery.
- The individual will obtain skills to prepare for gainful employment and/or educational attainment.

## Discharge Criteria

ANY of these indicators would support discharge or transition from this LOC:

- The individual moves outside of the geographic service area of the CSC team. To the extent possible, the CSC team must facilitate referral of the individual to a provider of services sufficiently capable of satisfactorily addressing the individual's needs.
- Individual is determined to not have a qualifying diagnosis. Due to diagnostic uncertainty when first entering this LOC, it is possible an individual may be assigned this LOC initially before a true diagnosis is given. Should the individual be given a diagnosis that is not on the allowable list, the individual must be transitions to the next most appropriate LOC.
- The individual has been enrolled in LOC EO for a total of 36 months.
- The individual is determined to not meet the age requirement.

- [LOC-CEO Table Overview](#)

<b>Authorization Period: 180 Days</b>		
<b>Recovery Plan: 180 Days</b>		
<b>Average Monthly Utilization Standard for this Level of Care Is Based on Determined Need</b>		
Across the population served in this LOC, some individuals may require more/less intense provision of services or utilize services at a higher/lower rate than others. Ideally, the hours of service(s) delivered should include the Core Services and be supplemented with Adjunct Services when clinically appropriate and indicated in the recovery plan.		
<b>Core Services:</b> Identified by the uniform assessment and indicated in the recovery plan.	<b>Level of Care CEO</b>	
	<b>Estimated Utilization Per Month</b> <b>(These Are Guidelines Only)</b>	
	<b>Standard Therapeutic</b> <b>5.87 hours per month</b>	<b>High Need Therapeutic</b> <b>20.35 hours per month</b>
<b>Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview Examination</b> (coded 90791, 90792)	<b>1 event/year</b>	<b>1 event/year</b>
<b>Pharmacological Management</b> (coded 99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245, M0064)	<b>0.25 hours</b> (1 unit)	<b>0.5 hour</b> (2 units)
<b>Administration of an Injection</b> (coded 96372)	<b>As needed</b>	
Skills Training and Development (Individual) (coded H2014)	<b>3 hours</b> (12 units)	<b>4.5 hours</b> (18 units)
Skills Training and Development (Group) (coded H2014)	<b>3 hours</b> (12 units)	<b>4.25 hours</b> (17 units)
Supported Employment and Education (coded H2023HA)		
Supported Housing (coded H0046HAU2)		
Medication Training & Support Services (Individual) (coded H0034)	<b>1 hour</b> (4 units)	<b>1.5 hours</b> (6 units)
Medication Training & Support Services (Group) (coded H0034)	<b>0.75 hour</b> (3 units)	<b>5 hours</b> (21 units)
Individual Psychotherapy (coded 90832, 90833, 90834, 90836, 90837, 90838)	<b>3 hours</b> (3 events)	<b>4 hours</b> (16 events)
Family Counseling (coded 90847)	<b>3 hours</b> (3 events)	<b>4 hours</b> (16 events)
Multiple Family Psychotherapy (coded 90849)	<b>3 hours</b> 3 events Not reimbursed by Medicaid	<b>4 hours</b> 16 events

Group Counseling (other than multiple family) (coded 90853)	<b>3 hours</b> (3 events)	<b>4 hours</b> (16 events)
<b>Family Partner Services</b> (coded H0038)	<b>3.5 Hours</b> (14 units)	<b>7 hours</b> (29 units)
Case Management (Individual) coded T1017 (Individual) T1017 Routine T1017 Intensive Individual (Wraparound)	<b>1hr</b> (4 units)	<b>6 hours</b> (24 units) <b>8 hours</b> (32 units)
Case Management (Family) (coded T1016)	<b>0.5 hour</b> (2 units)	<b>1 hour</b> (4 units)
Family Training (Individual) (coded H2019)	<b>3 hours</b> (12 units)	<b>6 hours</b> (24 units)
Family Training (Group) (coded H2019)	<b>3 hours</b> (12 units)	<b>6 hours</b> (24 units)
Parent Support Group (coded H0025HAHQ)	<b>1 hour</b> (1 unit)	<b>4 hours</b> (4 units)
<b>Engagement Activity</b> (coded H0025HATS)	<b>6 hours</b> (24 units)	
<b>Adjunct Services:</b> Identified by the uniform assessment and indicated in the recovery plan.	<b>Standard Therapeutic</b>	<b>High Need Therapeutic</b>
<b>Flexible Funds</b> (coded H2016)	<b>Unit type: \$1</b>	<b>Unit type: \$1</b>
<b>Flexible Community Supports</b> (coded H2016)	<b>Unit type: 15 min=1 unit</b>	<b>Unit type: 15 min=1 unit</b>
<b>Crisis Services Array: Authorized as medically necessary and available during psychiatric crisis</b>	Utilization of crisis services within this Level of Care is similar to LOC-0 as described in the UM guidelines. Also includes crisis versions of above italicized services	
Crisis Intervention Services (coded H2011)	<b>Unit type: 15 min=1 unit</b>	
Safety Monitoring (coded H0046)	<b>2 hours</b> (8 units)	
Crisis Transportation (Event) (coded A0160)	<b>As necessary</b> Unit type: event	
Crisis Transportation (Dollar) (coded A0160)	<b>As necessary</b> Unit type: \$1	
Respite Services: Community-Based (coded T1005)	<b>6 hours</b> (24 units)	
Respite Services: Program-Based (not in home) (coded H0045)	<b>3 bed days</b> (3 units)	
Extended Observation (coded 99218HA-99220HA)	<b>1 unit</b> (1 bed day)	

Children's Crisis Residential (coded H0018)	<b>4 units</b> (4 bed days)	
Inpatient Hospital Service (coded 90816-90819, 90821-90824, 90826-90829, 99221-99223, 99231-99236, 99238, 99239, 99251-99255)	<b>As necessary</b> Unit type: bed day	
Inpatient Services (Psychiatric) As necessary (coded T2048HA)	<b>As necessary</b> Unit type: bed day	
Emergency Room Services (Psychiatric) As necessary (coded 99281-99285)	<b>As necessary</b> Unit type: event	
Crisis Follow-up & Relapse Prevention (coded H0036)	<b>8 hours</b> (32 units)	
Crisis Stabilization Unit (coded H0017)	<b>As necessary</b> Unit type: bed day	

[LOC-AEO Table Overview](#)

<b>Authorization Period: 180 Days</b>		
<b>Recovery Plan: 180 Days</b>		
<b>Average Monthly Utilization Standard for this Level of Care Is Based on Determined Need</b>		
Across the population served in this LOC, some individuals may require more/less intense provision of services or utilize services at a higher/lower rate than others. Ideally, the hours of service(s) delivered should include the Core Services and be supplemented with Adjunct Services when clinically appropriate and indicated in the recovery plan.		
<b>Core Services: Identified by the uniform assessment and indicated in the recovery plan.</b>	<b>Level of Care AEO Estimated Utilization Per Month (These Are Guidelines Only)</b>	
	<b>Standard Therapeutic 5.87 hours per month</b>	<b>High Need Therapeutic 20.35 hours per month</b>
Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview Examination (coded 90791, 90792)	<b>1 Event/year</b> coded 90791, 90792	<b>1 Event/year</b>
Routine Case Management (coded T1017-Individual, T1017 Routine)	<b>1hr</b> (4 units)	<b>6 hours</b> (24 units)
Psychosocial Rehab (Individual) (coded H2017)	<b>3.5 Hours</b> (14 units)	<b>7 hours</b> (29 units)
Psychosocial Rehab (Group) (coded H2017HQ)	<b>2.25 Hours</b> (9 units)	<b>8.6 hours</b> (35 units)
Peer Support (H0038)	Non-billable	Non-billable
Pharmacological Management (coded 99201-99205, 99211-99215, 99241-99245, M0064)	<b>0.25 hours</b> (1 unit)	<b>0.5 hour</b> (2 units)
Administration of an injection (coded 96372)	<b>1 unit</b>	<b>1 unit</b>
Medication Training & Support Services (Individual)	<b>1 hour</b>	<b>1.5 hours</b>

(coded H0034)	(4 units)	(6 units)
Medication Training & Support Services (Group) (coded H0034HQ)	<b>0.75 hour</b> (3 units)	<b>5 hours</b> (21 units)
Family Counseling (coded 90847)	<b>3 hours</b> (3 events)	<b>4 hours</b> (16 events)
Individual Psychotherapy (coded 90832, 90833, 90834, 90836, 90837, 90838)	<b>3 hours</b> (3 events)	<b>4 hours</b> (16 events)
Group Counseling (other than multiple family) (coded 90853)	<b>3 hours</b> (3 Events)	<b>4 hours</b> (16 events)
Supported Housing	<b>3 hours</b> (12 units)	<b>4.25 hours</b> (17 units)
Supported Employment	<b>3 hours</b> (12 units)	<b>4.5 hours</b> (18 units)
Engagement Activity		
Flexible Funds (coded H2016)	Unit type: \$1	Unit type: \$1
<b>Adjunct Services:</b> Identified by the uniform assessment and indicated in the recovery/treatment plan.	<b>Standard Therapeutic</b>	<b>High Need Therapeutic</b>
Flexible Community Supports (coded H2016)	<b>Unit type: 15 min=1 unit</b>	<b>Unit type: 15 min=1 unit</b>
<b>Crisis Service Array:</b> Authorized as medically necessary and available during psychiatric crisis.	<b>Utilization of crisis services within this LOC is the same as LOC-0.</b> Please refer to LOC-0 for utilization guidelines.	

*Uniform Assessment Instructions for LOC-EO*

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>
<b>Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) or Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upon admission</li> <li>▪ Every 180 days</li> <li>▪ Upon any other change in condition</li> <li>▪ Upon discharge</li> <li>▪ Following any crisis event</li> <li>▪ Following any hospitalization</li> </ul>
<b>Diagnosis-Specific Rating Scales:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Upon admission</li> <li>▪ Every 180 days (unless no pharmacological appointment required within 180 days)</li> <li>▪ Upon discharge</li> <li>▪ These scales are not required for individuals who are not part of the target population.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Every time ANSA or CANS is completed</li> </ul>
<b>Authorizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LOC EO – 180 Days</li> </ul>