



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J371

Date: 08/13/2020

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

From: Victor Armstrong, Division Director, DMH/DD/SAS
Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid

Subject: Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Services Eligibility

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) Services has issued an updated position statement on criteria for exception to upper age range of youth service by MST teams. Teams may accept youth into standard MST, including those 18 years old (up to age 19) if the following criteria are met:

- All MST inclusionary and exclusionary criteria are met, including that the youth is living with an identified caregiver;
- The age of jurisdiction for the applicable service system includes those who are 18 years old; and
- Caregivers have a legal responsibility for the youth.

Adolescents 18 years old (up to age 19) under the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice who meet MST inclusionary and exclusionary criteria whose caregiver(s) have legal responsibility for the youth, by law or by court mandates, may receive MST.

NC Medicaid will submit a State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updating the eligibility criteria to be in line with the MST model. Once it is approved, NC Medicaid will update the corresponding Clinical Coverage Policy. In the interim, please note that under the provisions of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT), policy limitations, such as age, can be waived if the service meets EPSDT criteria.

As a reminder, youth do not need to have justice system involvement or to have tried other enhanced services first in order to be eligible for MST.

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**DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL
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If you have any questions, please contact Eric Harbour, state contact at 984-236-5062 or eric.harbour@dhhs.nc.gov or Petra Mozzetti at 984-236-5066 or petra.mozzetti@dhhs.nc.gov for MST model questions.

Attachment: Multisystemic Therapy Position Statement Memo

Previous bulletins can be accessed at:

www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins

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