

ATLANTA EMA QUALITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS AND MEASURES

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT SERVICES- OUTPATIENT

Purpose

The purpose of the Ryan White Part A quality management standards and measures is to ensure that a uniformity of service exists in the Atlanta Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) such that the consumers of a service receive the same quality of service regardless of where the service is provided. If an agency is unable to meet a particular standard, the agency must document why the standard was unable to be met and explain the steps it is taking to meet that standard.

Definition

Substance Abuse Treatment Services-Outpatient is the provision of outpatient services for the treatment of drug or alcohol use disorders (i.e. alcohol and/or legal and illegal drugs) by or under the supervision of a physician or other qualified/licensed personnel. Services include:

- ✓ Screening
- ✓ Assessment
- ✓ Diagnosis, and/or
- ✓ Treatment of substance use disorder, including:
 - Pretreatment/recovery readiness programs
 - Harm reduction
 - Behavioral health counseling associated with substance use disorder
 - Outpatient drug-free treatment and counseling
 - Medication assisted therapy
 - Neuro-psychiatric pharmaceuticals
 - Relapse prevention

Services are based on a treatment plan and conducted in an outpatient group or individual session. Please refer to standard II.B for the qualifications of program staff providing substance abuse treatment services.

Standards Development Process

The standards were developed through extensive background research on quality management standards, a review of existing standards from other Ryan White Part A EMAs, meetings of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force and meetings with the Ryan White Part A Recipient.

Application of Standards

These standards apply to any agency receiving Part A funds to provide Substance Abuse-Outpatient Services. If an agency is unable to meet a particular standard, the agency must document why the standard was unable to be met and explain in quarterly reports the steps it is taking to meet that standard.

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Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Case Management, and Legal Standardized Screening Questions

The screening process includes utilization of the Atlanta EMA Screening Tool, standardized Case Management, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Legal questions, which all agencies must use if receiving Part A funds to provide Outpatient Ambulatory Health Services, Substance Abuse, Mental Health or Case Management (medical or non-medical) services. The purpose of the questions is to provide a uniform way to identify consumers who need an assessment conducted. Given this standardized approach, clients will receive the same follow-up for assessment, treatment and/or referrals based on their responses, regardless of the agency. Please note that agencies may decide to add more questions to their screening tool; however, the questions listed in these standards must be asked first before an agency's additional questions.

Acknowledgements

Fulton County would like to thank all of the EMAs that shared their standards, as well as the members of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force who gave generously of their time to provide valuable input to the development of these quality management standards and measures.

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING AND TREATMENT SERVICES**

I. Policies and Procedures	
Standard	Measure
A. Agency must have policies and procedures in place that address confidentiality (HIPAA), grievance procedures and supervision requirements per federal and state law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and procedure manual • Grievance procedure posted in visible location
B. Agency has eligibility requirements for services in written form. This is inclusive of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clients rights and responsibilities ✓ Release of information/confidentiality ✓ Eligibility for services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on file
C. Agency is licensed and/or accredited by the appropriate city/county/state/federal agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current licensure on file from appropriate city/county/state/federal agency
D. Agency has written policies and procedures in place that protect the physical safety and well-being of staff and clients. This is inclusive of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Physical agency safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets fire safety requirements • Complies with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) • Is clean, comfortable and free from hazards • Complies with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) infection control practices ✓ Crisis management and psychiatric emergencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to assess emergent/urgent vs. routine need • Verbal intervention • Non-violent physical intervention • Emergency medical contact information • Incident reporting • Voluntary and involuntary inpatient admission ✓ Refusal of services ✓ Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities of staff, including supervision responsibilities and caseload or staff/client ratio ✓ Client/Parent/Guardian Rights and Responsibilities (see Standard VII) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on file • Site visit
E. Agency has private, confidential office space for seeing clients with substance abuse treatment needs (e.g. no half-walls or cubicles, all rooms must have doors).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit
F. Agency will have all inactivated client records in a confidential locked location for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Visit/Program Monitoring

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a period as stipulated by law.	
<p>G. Agency is required to assure and maintain documentation of the following which shall be made available to the Recipient and HRSA upon request and during Ryan White Part A site visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Documentation that services are provided by or under the supervision of a physician or by other qualified personnel with appropriate and valid licensure and certification as required by the State in which services are provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing structure showing supervision by a physician or other qualified personnel ✓ Documentation through program files and client records that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services provided meet the service category definition • All services provided with Part A funds are allowable under Ryan White ✓ Assurance that services are provided only in an outpatient setting ✓ Assurance that services provided include a treatment plan for only allowable activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel files • Client records • Site Visit/Program Monitoring
II. Program Staff	
Standard	Measure
A. Staff are trained and knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS and available resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training records
B. Staff has appropriate skills, relevant experience and licensure to care for HIV infected clients with substance abuse issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current certifications on file • Training attendance in the past year on current mental health and substance abuse issues and approaches. This may include American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) trainings.
C. Agency staff administering screening questions must have completed training for using the Atlanta EMA screening tool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training records
D. Staff receives supervision and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel records • Training records
III. Access to Services	
<p>A. Agency is accessible to desired target populations. Accessibility includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proximity to community impacted by HIV ✓ Proximity to mass transit ✓ Proximity to low-income individuals ✓ Proximity to underinsured/uninsured individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit

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B. Agency is compliant with ADA requirements for non-discriminatory policies and practices and for the provision of reasonable accommodations to address communication (e.g. sign language interpreter).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Policy on file
C. Agency demonstrates the ability to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care according to the Atlanta EMA standards for desired target population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personnel and training records ● Site visit ● Client satisfaction survey
D. Agency demonstrates input from clients in service design and delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Client satisfaction survey ● Existence of Consumer Advisory Board
IV. Eligibility Determination/Screening	
Standard	Measure
A. Upon initial contact with client, agency will assess client for emergent/urgent or routine mental health and substance abuse needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Client record
<p>B. Provider determines client eligibility for services. Client eligibility will be reassessed every six months. The process to determine client eligibility must be completed in a time frame so that treatment is not delayed. Eligibility assessment must include at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Proof of HIV status ✓ Proof of income not greater than 400% of Federal Poverty Level ✓ Proof of residency within the Atlanta EMA ✓ Proof of payor of last resort ✓ Proof of active participation in primary care or documentation of the client's plan to access primary care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At least 1 visit with a primary care provider every 6 months ● For affected children < 4, at least 1 primary care visit within 12 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Client record ● Policy on file ● Agency client data report consistent with funding requirements
C. Client is informed of the client confidentiality policy and grievance policy at first face to face contact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Client record ● Client satisfaction survey
D. Clients receive standardized screening questions during a face-to-face contact from an appropriate program staff immediately following eligibility determination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Client record ● Agency client data report consistent with funding requirements
E. Agencies will inform clients of their screening disposition in writing, specifically whether or not they are being referred for a substance abuse assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Client record ● Agency client data report consistent with funding requirements

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<p>F. Agencies that are referring a client for a substance abuse assessment must send a copy of the Atlanta EMA screen within two business days to the substance abuse entity that will be completing the assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screen in client record
V. Assessment/Treatment	
Standard Measure	
<p>A. Clients who are referred from screening shall receive an assessment within 10 business days of screening. Assessment includes at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Medical history and current health status ✓ HIV risk behavior ✓ Available financial resources ✓ Available support system ✓ Legal history ✓ Mental health issues ✓ Housing history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client record • Agency client data report consistent with funding requirements
<p>B. Clients with a current substance use issue as determined by the standardized assessment who want treatment will be provided either with treatment or a referral as clinically indicated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency client data report consistent with funding requirements • Client record
<p>C. Develop treatment plan with client within 20 business days of intake encompassing continuum of care. An appropriate treatment plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The quantity, frequency, and modality of treatment provided ✓ The date treatment begins and ends ✓ The signature of the individual providing the service and or the supervisor as applicable ✓ Regular monitoring and assessment of client progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk reduction counseling on possible HIV re-infection and avoiding transmission to their partners • Documentation of current medications if applicable • Recommended substance use treatment and client’s willingness to participate in such treatment • Plans for continuity of primary medical care for those clients who are currently receiving medical care • Plans to link client into primary medical care with a designated time frame that is coordinated with client’s substance use treatment needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client record including completed treatment plan signed by client • Client satisfaction survey

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D. Client's needs and treatment plan are reviewed a minimum of 30 days and revised as clinically needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client record • Agency client data report consistent with funding requirements
VI. Service Coordination/Referral	
Standard	Measure
A. Agency staff act as a liaison between the client and other service providers to support coordination and delivery of high quality care. For those clients not in primary medical care, agency staff must note progress towards linking the client into primary medical care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client record – documentation of with whom staff are communicating and progress to linking client to primary care if appropriate
B. Agency staff implement discharge plan when appropriate in client treatment plan. The discharge plan shall be inclusive of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Summary of needs at admission ✓ Summary of services provided ✓ Goals completed during counseling ✓ Circumstances of discharge ✓ Disposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client record
C. Referral sources should be provided at a minimum with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Authorization form from client to provide records to referral source ✓ Concise problem statement ✓ Helpful/relevant lab tests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client record
VII. Clients' Rights and Responsibilities	
A. Client confidentiality policy exists for all service settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on file
B. Grievance policy exists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on file
C. A current (in the last year) release of information form exists for each specific request for information and each request is signed by the client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client record
D. The agency has a formal policy as governed by Georgia law for clients who may be incapable of making their own treatment or care decisions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy on file • Legal/medical consultation policy
E. Client will be informed of the client confidentiality policy, grievance policy, their rights and responsibilities and their eligibility for services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation in client chart initialed or signed by client (chart review) showing that they have read or been informed