



Changes to Health Home Serving Children (HHSC) Standards

Single qualifying condition of Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Definition:

Effective immediately, the Health Home Serving Children definition for SED has been updated to consistently match the Office of Mental Health SED determination as well as the SED definition used under the Home and Community Based Services consolidated Children’s Waiver. Previously, several diagnoses were not allowed as the primary diagnosis for Health Home SED as highlighted below. SED is not determined by diagnosis alone but MUST also have a licensed mental health professional document that the functional limitations have been met. Additionally, the diagnoses below may differ from the Health Home chronic conditions list, i.e. as ADHD was not considered a Health Home chronic condition.

For Health Home Serving Children, SED is a single qualifying chronic condition and is defined as a child or adolescent (under the age of 21) that has a designated mental illness diagnosis in the following Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) categories below* as defined by the most recent version of the DSM of Mental Health Disorders AND has experienced the following functional limitations due to emotional disturbance over the past 12 months (from the date of assessment) on a continuous or intermittent basis.

SED Definition for Health Home - DSM Qualifying Mental Health Categories*

- Anxiety Disorders
- Bipolar and Related Disorders
- Depressive Disorders
- Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders
- Dissociative Disorders
- Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
- Feeding and Eating Disorders
- Gender Dysphoria
- Paraphilic Disorders
- Personality Disorders
- Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders
- Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders
- Sleep-Wake Disorders
- Medication-Induced Movement Disorders
- ADHD
- Elimination Disorders
- Sexual Dysfunctions
- Tic Disorder

*Any diagnosis in these categories can be used when evaluating a child for SED. However, any diagnosis that is secondary to another medical condition is excluded.

Functional Limitations Requirements for SED Definition of Health Home - The functional limitations must be **moderate in at least two** of the following areas or **severe in at**



least one of the following areas as determined by a licensed mental health professional:

- Ability to care for self (e.g. personal hygiene; obtaining and eating food; dressing; avoiding injuries); or
- Family life (e.g. capacity to live in a family or family like environment; relationships with parents or substitute parents, siblings and other relatives; behavior in family setting); or
- Social relationships (e.g. establishing and maintaining friendships; interpersonal interactions with peers, neighbors and other adults; social skills; compliance with social norms; play and appropriate use of leisure time); or
- Self-direction/self-control (e.g. ability to sustain focused attention for a long enough period of time to permit completion of age-appropriate tasks; behavioral self-control; appropriate judgment and value systems; decision-making ability); or
- Ability to learn (e.g. school achievement and attendance; receptive and expressive language; relationships with teachers; behavior in school).

Special Note: ADHD can be utilized as the primary condition for SED if the functional limitations and the determination of SED is made by a licensed mental health professional. Subsequently, it is no longer required that past services within the last three years is needed.

Quarterly Verification of Health Home Eligibility:

Effective February 1, 2019; this HHSC standard for a **Quarterly Verification** is no longer required, as Health Home care managers are already required to verify Health Home and Medicaid eligibility upon initial referral for Health Home services and monthly thereafter. Health Home care managers should regularly check EPACES or EMedNY to verify continuous Medicaid eligibility and ensure there are no other Restriction Exception (RE) Codes that do not allow the child to have Health Home services due to enrollment in another program that provides care management services. The list of RE: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/medicaid_health_homes/docs/restriction_exception_codes.pdf

Additionally, HHSC standards outline the requirement of an interdisciplinary team meeting upon initial development of the Plan of Care (POC), every six (6) months with the required CANS-NY assessment and when there is a significant life event for the member where the POC should be reviewed for any changes. The interdisciplinary team meetings are an opportunity to review and evaluated the child's continuous need and eligibility with the child, family and care team for Health Home care management services.