

Attachment 1: Enhanced Care Management Population of Focus Eligibility Criteria

Adult Populations of Focus

Population of Focus #1: Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Individuals and families who:

(1) Are experiencing homelessness (as defined below);

AND

(2) Have at least one complex physical, behavioral or developmental health need with inability to successfully self-manage, for whom coordination of services would likely result in improved health outcomes **and/or** decreased utilization of high-cost services.

An Individual or Family Experiencing Homelessness is defined as:

- An individual or family who lacks adequate nighttime residence;
- An individual or family with a primary residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used for habitation;
- An individual or family living in a shelter;
- An individual exiting an institution into homelessness;
- An individual or family who will imminently lose housing in next **30 days**;
- Unaccompanied youth and homeless families and children and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes; or
- Individuals fleeing domestic violence or trafficking.

Notes on the definition:

- This definition is taken from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of “Homeless”¹ with the following modifications:
 - If exiting an institution, individuals are considered homeless if they were homeless immediately prior to entering that institutional stay, regardless of the length of the institutionalization.
 - The timeframe for an individual or family who will imminently lose housing has been extended from 14 days (HUD definition) to 30 days.

¹ HUD Definition of Homelessness 42 U.S. Code § 11302 - General definition of homeless individual. <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/USCODE-2010-title42/USCODE-2010-title42-chap119-subchapl-sec11302>.

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Examples of eligible Medi-Cal managed care health plan (MCP) Members under this Population of Focus:

- Members experiencing homelessness with complex health care needs as a result of an unmanaged medical, psychiatric or Substance Use Disorder (SUD)-related condition.
- Members with complex health care needs as a result of a medical, psychiatric or SUD-related condition, who have recently received an eviction notice and will imminently lose housing in the next 30 days.

Population of Focus #2: Adult High Utilizers

Adults with:

(1) **Five or more** emergency department visits in a six-month period that could have been avoided with appropriate outpatient care or improved treatment adherence;

AND/OR

(2) **Three or more** unplanned hospital and/or short-term skilled nursing facility stays in a six-month period that could have been avoided with appropriate outpatient care or improved treatment adherence.

MCPs may also authorize Enhanced Care Management (ECM) for other individuals with a pattern of very high utilization that could have been avoided with appropriate care or improved treatment adherence.

Notes on the definition:

- The definition allows MCPs to authorize ECM services for very high utilizer individuals who would benefit from ECM but who may not meet numerical thresholds (1) and/or (2).
- However, this flexibility does not displace the numerical thresholds provided in the definition to identify high utilizers. MCPs must use the numerical thresholds to identify Members in this Population of Focus. MCPs must have a consistent approach (e.g., algorithms or other methodologies) for identifying high utilizers and must describe it in their Model of Care Template submission to the Department of Health Care Services.
- MCPs must utilize a “rolling” six-month lookback period based on the most recent month of adjudicated claims data.

Emergency department visits that result in an inpatient stay must only count as one inpatient visit.

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Examples of eligible MCP Members under this Population of Focus:

- Members with repeated incidents of avoidable emergency department visits in a six-month period, who have a medical, psychiatric or SUD-related condition requiring intensive coordination beyond telephonic intervention.
- Members with repeated incidents of avoidable emergency department visits in a six-month period who have significant functional limitations and/or adverse social determinants of health that impede them from navigating their health care and other services.

Population of Focus #3:

Adult Serious Mental Illness (SMI)/SUD

Adults who:

(1) **Meet the eligibility criteria** for participation in or obtaining services through:

- The county Specialty Mental Health System **AND/OR**;
- The Drug Medi-Cal Organization Delivery System **OR**;
- The Drug Medi-Cal program.

AND

(2) Are actively experiencing at least one complex social factor influencing their health (e.g., lack of access to food, lack of access to stable housing, inability to work or engage in the community, history of Adverse Childhood Experiences, former foster youth, or a history of recent contacts with law enforcement related to mental health and/or substance use symptoms or associated behaviors);

AND

(3) **Meet one or more of the following criteria:**

- Are at high risk for institutionalization, overdose and/or suicide;
- Use crisis services, emergency department, urgent care, or inpatient stays as the sole source of care;
- Experienced two or more emergency department visits or two or more hospitalizations due to SMI or SUD in the past 12 months; or
- Are pregnant or post-partum (12 months from delivery).

Notes on the definition:

- Institutionalization in this context is broad and means any type of inpatient, Skilled Nursing Facility, long-term, or emergency department setting.

Examples of eligible MCP Members under this Population of Focus:

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- Members who have the highest levels of complex health care needs as a result of psychiatric or SUD-related conditions, who are experiencing one complex social factor influencing their health and are pregnant.
- Former foster youth Members with a psychiatric or SUD-related condition, who are currently using emergency departments as the sole source of care.

Population of Focus #4: Individuals Transitioning from Incarceration

Individuals who:

(1) Are transitioning from incarceration or transitioned from incarceration within the past 12 months;

AND

(2) Have at least one of the following conditions:

- Chronic mental illness.
- SUD.
- Chronic disease (e.g., hepatitis C, diabetes).
- Intellectual or developmental disability.
- Traumatic brain injury.
- HIV.
- Pregnancy.

Notes on the definition:

- The conditions listed above align with the eligibility criteria for pre-release coverage in California's 1115 Demonstration Amendment and Renewal Application; as of the date of publication of this guide, the waiver is not yet final, and thus the above criteria are subject to change.

Population of Focus #5: Individuals at Risk for Institutionalization and Eligible for Long-Term Care Services

Individuals at risk for institutionalization who are eligible for Long-Term Care services who, in the absence of services and supports, would otherwise require care for 90 consecutive days or more in an inpatient nursing facility. Individuals must be able to live safely in the community with wraparound supports.

Examples of eligible MCP Members under this Population of Focus:

- Individuals in need of increasing assistance with Activities of Daily Living and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living.
- Possibly, individuals with changes to family or caregiver status.

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- Possibly, individuals with medical or surgical setbacks resulting in a decrease in functional, cognitive or psychological status.
- Possibly, individuals showing early signs of dementia with few or no natural supports.
- Possibly, individuals who are noncompliant with their prescribed medical regime.
- Possibly, individuals who are not appropriately engaged to take advantage of necessary health care services.
- Possibly, individuals who lack a family or community support system to assist in appropriate follow-up care at home.

Population of Focus #6: Nursing Facility Residents Who Want to Transition to the Community

Nursing facility residents who are strong candidates for successful transition back to the community and have a desire to do so.

Notes on the definition:

- **Individuals should be:**
 - Interested in moving out of the institution;
 - Medically appropriate to live in the community; and
 - Able to reside safely in the community.

Children and Youth Populations of Focus

Populations of Focus for Children and Youth include the following:

1. Children (up to Age 21) Experiencing Homelessness;
2. High Utilizers;
3. Experiencing Serious Emotional Disturbance or identified to be at Clinical High Risk for Psychosis or Experiencing a First Episode of Psychosis;
4. Enrolled in California Children's Services (CCS)/CCS Whole Child Model with additional needs beyond the CCS eligible condition;
5. Involved in, or with a history of involvement in, Child Welfare Services/Programs (Including Foster Care up to Age 26); and
6. Transitioning from incarceration.

Definitions and detailed eligibility criteria for the Children and Youth Populations of Focus are forthcoming.