

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

REACH for Tomorrow

Parent/Guardian Involvement and Consent Policy

Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP)

Effective Date: 08/15/2025

Approved By: Director of Medical and Clinical Services

Review Schedule: Annually or as Needed

Applies To: All Programs — Outpatient MH/SUD, IOP, PHP, and Integrated Primary Care/Behavioral Health

Purpose

To establish standards for involving parents or legal guardians in the care of minors receiving services within the Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP). This policy ensures that parental/guardian rights are respected and that consent for treatment is obtained in accordance with applicable laws and ethical standards.

Policy

The organization recognizes the important role of parents and legal guardians in the treatment of minors. The program encourages appropriate involvement of parents or guardians in treatment planning, decision-making, and support of recovery while also respecting the developmental needs and privacy rights of the minor.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff providing services to individuals under the age of 18 within the PHP program and governs procedures for obtaining consent and facilitating parent or guardian involvement in treatment.

Consent for Treatment

Prior to initiating services for a minor, informed consent must be obtained from the parent or legal guardian unless otherwise permitted by law. Consent includes agreement for:

- Participation in PHP services
- Treatment planning and therapeutic interventions
- Communication with involved providers when authorized

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Parent/Guardian Participation

Parents or guardians may be involved in treatment through:

- Participation in intake or assessment processes
- Involvement in treatment planning discussions
- Family therapy or support sessions when appropriate
- Participation in discharge planning and aftercare coordination

Communication with Parents/Guardians

Program staff maintain appropriate communication with parents or guardians regarding treatment progress, concerns affecting safety, and recommended services. Communication occurs in accordance with confidentiality regulations and professional standards.

Confidentiality Considerations

While parents or guardians have rights related to the care of minors, the program also considers the minor's privacy and therapeutic needs. Staff balance confidentiality and parental involvement consistent with applicable laws and ethical guidelines.

Documentation

Consent and parent/guardian involvement must be documented in the clinical record, including:

- Signed consent forms
- Participation in treatment planning
- Family meetings or communication with parents/guardians
- Any limitations on information sharing

Staff Responsibilities

Staff are responsible for:

- Obtaining proper consent before services begin
- Encouraging constructive parent/guardian involvement
- Communicating treatment information appropriately
- Protecting the privacy and dignity of the minor

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Quality Monitoring

Parent/guardian involvement practices may be reviewed through chart audits, supervision, and quality improvement processes to ensure compliance with policy and applicable regulations.