
CHAPTER 13: MENTAL HEALTH CLINICS

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OVERVIEW

Mental Health Clinics (MHCs) are licensed by the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Bureau of Health Standards. The regulations that govern MHCs are located in Louisiana Revised Statutes 28:567. Currently there is a moratorium on licensing new clinics until the publication and promulgation of new rules and regulations governing operations and reimbursement. (Refer to Executive Order BJ 08-24 –July 9, 2008). Additionally, all mental health clinics must be enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid.

The fundamental purpose of a MHC is to assist adults with mental illness and children with emotional/behavioral disorders through outpatient services. Such services must be medically necessary to reduce the disability resulting from mental illness and assist in the recovery and resiliency of the recipient. The intent of MHC services is to minimize the disabling effects on the individual's capacity for independent living and to prevent or limit the periods of inpatient treatment. Services must include, at a minimum, outpatient services to residents of an assigned geographic area.

MHC services are expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Assist recipients in the stabilization of acute symptoms of mental illness
- Assist recipients in coping with the chronic symptoms of their mental illness
- Minimize the aspects of mental illness that make it difficult for a recipient to live independently
- Reduce or prevent psychiatric hospitalizations; and
- Minimize the amount of time spent in out-of-home placement and disruptions in school for children