

HEALTH CARE POLICY

I. INTENT

It is the intent of San Andreas Regional Center to ensure, preserve and protect the health of regional center consumers. The consumers of San Andreas Regional Center may have special health care needs in addition to routine health maintenance. Optimal health is a function of the individual, the environment, and appropriate health care.

Consumers, Individuals served by the regional center and Persons we serve are terms that are used interchangeably throughout the San Andreas Purchase of Service policies to refer to those individuals who receive services from the regional center. These same terms are used throughout the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act.

II. DEFINITION

Conditions Which Are a Developmental Disability include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and other handicapping conditions closely related to intellectual disability or requiring treatment similar to that required for intellectually disabled individuals, but do not include conditions that are solely physical or psychiatric in nature or solely learning disability.

Medical Conditions Related to the Developmental Disability are conditions which arise as a direct result of the developmental disability. They frequently require multi-disciplinary team involvement and medical/nursing monitoring of their health status. Examples of these include conditions which necessitate such things as tube feeding, tracheotomy, ventilator support, intravenous lines and apnea monitors.

Routine Health Care Maintenance includes routine medical, hearing, vision, and dental evaluations; treatment; follow-ups; and immunizations.

III. POLICY

San Andreas Regional Center will assist consumers and families in obtaining health care services through referral, advocacy, and monitoring of existing generic, public and private resources. Routine health care maintenance is the responsibility of the consumer, the parents, the guardians (of minors), and conservators (of adults). Health care for persons without generic, public or private resources becomes the responsibility of the county in which they reside. The regional center is not responsible for funding diagnostic or treatment services related to routine health care maintenance of the consumer when generic resources are available.

The Lanterman Act gives the regional center executive director the authority to provide consent for urgent medical treatment when no family member can be contacted within a reasonable period of time.

IV. PURCHASE OF SERVICE (POS) STANDARD

Health care needs that are directly related to an individual's developmental disability become the responsibility of the regional center if no other generic, public or private resource is available. This may include evaluation, treatment, medication, equipment, and appliances. The purchase must be a recommendation of the planning team and identified in the consumers' program plan (IPP).

The regional center will purchase only those services that are generally recognized by clinical professionals as safe, effective, and which are intended to maximize the consumer's potential.

V. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY

The executive director has full discretion to authorize service purchases which are exceptions to the board-adopted purchase of service policies. The executive director has designated different members within the organization who may authorize a director's exception. They are called the director's designees.

The first formal discussion of a request for service takes place at the planning team meeting. If the request falls within the service policy, the request is granted.

If the request for service is not consistent with the policy, the service coordinator starts the exception review process by exploring the basis for the request. A time line for the director's exception review is set by agreement between the consumer/family and the service coordinator but the time line may not exceed fifteen (15) days. Within that time, another planning team meeting will be convened. In the meantime the coordinator presents the information to the manager to determine whether a director's exception may be warranted.

At the scheduled planning team meeting the decision will be made. The director's designee will attend the planning team meeting if necessary.

If the exception is granted, the service coordinator amends the person-centered individual program plan, notifies the consumer/family, and gives a copy of the amended plan to the consumer/family.

If the exception is not granted, the service coordinator promptly informs the consumer/family that it has not been granted, informs the consumer family of their appeal rights, and sends a notice of action and a fair hearing form.

VI. NOTICE OF ACTION

If a decision is made to deny, reduce, or cancel the service without the agreement of the consumer or the consumer's representative, a Notice of Action will be sent.

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