

**OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS  
APPLICATION, CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION**

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL SCREENING, ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT**

**Description:** Single persons under age 65, childless couples, who are not certified blind or disabled, or pregnant and who are at least age 21 but not yet 65, must comply with certain drug and alcohol screening, assessment and treatment requirements.

**Policy:** *Applicants must answer the questions on the Alcohol/Substance Abuse Screening Instrument, and comply with the assessment and treatment as appropriate, when they meet the following criteria:*

*At least age 21, but not yet 65; and*

*Are not certified blind or certified disabled; and*

*Are not pregnant; and*

*Are single; or*

*Are a member of a childless couple; or*

*Are a husband/boyfriend of a pregnant woman with no other children in the household; or*

*Are a stepparent with no other children of his/her own in the household when the birth parent also lives in the household.*

A copy of the completed Screening Instrument must be retained in the case file.

**References:**

SSL Sect.	132
Dept. Reg.	351.2(i)
ADMs	OMM/ADM 97-2
INF	98 OMM/INF-02 97 INF-16
GIS	00 MA/005

**Interpretation:** Screening

The required screening questions may be given verbally by

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reading each question to the client and recording the 'yes' or 'no' response on the instrument or it may be handed to the client for completion. The client must sign and date the form either in the office or off site. When two or more "yes" responses are received, the individual is referred for an assessment. If the worker has reason to suspect alcohol or substance abuse through observation of the individual's behavior, the individual is referred for an assessment. A copy of the completed Screening Instrument is forwarded to the person conducting the assessment. If fewer than two "yes" responses are received there is no need for an assessment.

If the individual refuses to answer the questions on the Screening Instrument, the individual is ineligible for Medicaid. The individual and the individual's income and resources will continue to be considered in determining the eligibility of any remaining family members.

A drug/alcohol screening is completed once for each recipient. It may be required more than once but not more frequently than once every six months unless the district has reason to believe that the individual is abusing or dependent on alcohol or drugs. If no abuse or dependence is indicated, the A/R is not required to complete the screening form at each recertification.

**Assessment**

An assessment is required when two or more positive responses are received to the questions on the Screening Instrument, or when the worker has reason to suspect abuse of drugs or alcohol. The assessment is performed by an alcohol and substance abuse professional credentialed by the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and may include drug testing. A model assessment form has been developed for local use. The district may choose to use a counselor at the district or may use a contractor to perform the assessment.

The assessment determines whether the individual is abusing alcohol and/or drugs. If abuse is found, the assessment determines whether the individual is able to work. If the individual is not able to work, the recommended level of treatment is determined and the individual is referred to and must comply with treatment.

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An individual referred for an assessment who fails to participate in the assessment without good cause is ineligible.

Treatment

If the results of the assessment indicate that an individual is unemployable and that treatment is required, the individual must comply. Treatment must be received from a program licensed or certified by OASAS. Failure to comply with recommended treatment without good cause results in ineligibility.

**Disposition:**

If the district is advised that the individual has failed to comply with available appropriate treatment, the individual is ineligible for Medicaid.

If the individual leaves a treatment program but returns to another appropriate treatment program, the individual may again receive Medicaid, if otherwise eligible.

If an individual is found to be in need of treatment, **but** s/he is already in a treatment program, s/he could continue in the existing treatment. As long as the treatment is considered appropriate, s/he is considered to be in compliance with this requirement. The local district may require an assessment to determine if the treatment is appropriate or may allow the treatment to continue and evaluate any additional treatment needs at the completion of the treatment.

After an applicant is found financially and otherwise eligible, Medicaid is authorized for an individual referred for assessment or treatment as long as the A/R is cooperating in the process. If the local district receives information that the individual A/R has not complied with completion of the assessment or with treatment, the individual A/R is not eligible for Medicaid.

**NOTE:** If an individual is ineligible for Medicaid for reasons unrelated to Drug and Alcohol Screening requirements, the screening instrument is not required to be completed.