

OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**DRUG AND ALCOHOL SCREENING, ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT**

Description: *Alcohol and drug abuse screening, referral and treatment are a Medicaid eligibility requirement for single individuals and childless couples who are age 21 and over, not pregnant or certified blind/disabled and for federally non-participating parents (i.e. fathers of unborns and stepparents with no other children of their own in the household). Such individuals who screen Medicaid eligible, are asked to complete the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Screening.*

Drug and alcohol screening, assessment and treatment requirements do not apply to persons eligible for Family Health Plus.

Drug and alcohol screening, assessment and treatment requirements do not apply to persons applying for the Family Planning Benefits Program (FPBP). Any individual who is currently ineligible for Temporary Assistance or Medicaid due to noncompliance with these requirements may be eligible for FPBP.

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.

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References:	SSL Sect.	132
	Dept. Reg.	351.2(i)
	ADMs	02 OMM/ADM-7 01 OMM/ADM-6 OMM/ADM 97-2
	INFs	98 OMM/INF-02 97 INF-16
	GIS	00 MA/005

Interpretation: Screening

The required screening questions may be given verbally by 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 **renewal**.

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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.

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

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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 A/R is not required to complete the screening instrument.