



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Legal Services

LDH LEGAL MEMORANDUM

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Providers
FROM: Kimberly Sullivan, LDH Deputy General Counsel
DATE: May 30, 2018
RE: Required documentation to verify dementia diagnoses for the purposes of PASRR through OBH Level II Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Sullivan", is written over the "FROM:" line of the memorandum.

The purpose of this memorandum is to serve as a follow-up to the memo dated December 4, 2017 relative to the Provision of Required Documentation for PASRR and provide clarifying guidance related to documentation required to verify dementia diagnoses.

Federal regulation guides the PASRR process and outlines requirements states shall uphold when making determinations. Specifically, 42 CFR 483.134 outlines the minimum data needs and process requirements for the State mental health authority to make a determination if an applicant with mental illness needs specialized behavioral health services. In addition to submitting a comprehensive history and physical, the following documentation is required: medication history, psychosocial evaluation/psychiatric evaluation, and functional assessment. Sufficient documentation supporting the basis for NF placement should be provided with the referral packet.

In an effort to ensure accurate diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's, the referring provider should provide documentation supporting the assertion the dementia symptoms cited in the PASRR request are not due to comorbid mental illness, medication use, or another medical condition. At a minimum, this includes documentation reflecting the impact, history, and progression of the dementing illness. A PASRR-affiliated physician will review all Level II requests including dementia or Alzheimer's diagnoses. Upon review, it may be determined additional documentation is required to rule out differential diagnosis possibilities in applicants without a clear and well-documented history of a chronic dementing illness. While every effort will be made to ensure less invasive and costly resources and tests are sought, these documents *may* include the following:

1. Additional history/documentation;
2. Neurologic consult or a complete Neurological exam conducted by a Neurologist or Psychiatrist;
3. Labs to include CBC, Chemistry/electrolyte profiles, TSH, B₁₂, drug levels;
4. CT brain (non-contrasted) unless MRI warranted

Please note a Mini Mental Status Exam (MMSE) or Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) alone is not sufficient to verify dementia or Alzheimer's diagnoses.

For additional information about Dementia and PASRR, please visit the PASRR Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) website: <http://www.pasrrassist.org/events/webinar/dementia-and-pasrr>. Please contact OBH PASRR at (225) 342-4827 or OBH_PASRR@la.gov with any additional questions.