

CHAPTER 2

MDCH TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BEST PRACTICES

Section 1: Overview

Michigan Department of Community Health publishes technical requirements to guide the implementation of specific federal and state laws and regulations that affect consumer care at the PIHP and CMHSP levels. The documents become part of the Master Contract held between MDCH, the PIHP and the CMHSP.

Adoption--MDCH is responsible for developing the TR to be utilized by all the PIHPs and CMHSPs in the state. Generally there is an exchange of input between the program experts at the state level and the experts at the local provider sites. A formal draft is generally written after the earlier dialogue that may involve training and informational opportunities to the local providers. The formal draft is released with a comment period which leads to further revision and may result in another draft being available for comment. Ultimately the TR is published and given an implementation date. Then the TR becomes a contract attachment.

Implementation—Implementation is generally left to the PIHP and the local providers. The actual “how to” meet the various standards are usually not prescribed by MDCH. This leads to considerable variation in application of the standards outlined in the requirement. NorthCare PIHP efforts have become more uniform as the Electronic Medical Record (ELMER) utilized by all five CMHSPs has standard forms, data collection, and reporting formats.

Evaluation—MDCH evaluates the successful utilization of the technical requirements through the annual site visits where relevant committee actions and processes are reviewed; mandated reporting for some of the technical requirements; and the review of consumer records.

Sustainability--While a technical requirement might be reviewed and revised in light of changing provider environments and as the system is being transformed into a recovery paradigm, rarely are they rescinded as most of the technical requirements are based on law and regulation.

Technical Requirements currently implemented at NorthCare — Generally, the TR has a corresponding NorthCare policy and may have specific reporting requirements. In the NorthCare Practice Guideline Manual, each TR has a section that contains the required documents for its implementation. The remainder of Chapter 2 presents the documents for each technical requirement as they have been implemented and are being evaluated and sustained in the NorthCare Network.