

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH (MDCH)  
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADMINISTRATION  
Technical Requirement  
For Behavior Treatment Plan Review Committees  
Revision FY'12**

**Application:**

Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)  
Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs)  
Public mental health service providers

Exception: State operated or licensed psychiatric hospitals or units when the individual's challenging behavior is due to an active substantiated Axis I diagnosis listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition or successor edition published by the American Psychiatric Association.

**Preamble:**

It is the expectation of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) that all public mental health agencies shall have policies and procedures for intervening with an individual receiving public mental health services who exhibits seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behaviors that place the individual or others at risk of harm. These policies and procedures shall include protocols for using the least intrusive and restrictive interventions for unprecedented and unpredicted crisis or emergency occurrences of such behaviors. For all other non-emergent or continuing occurrences of these behaviors, the public mental health service agency will first conduct appropriate assessments and evaluations to rule out physical, medical, and environmental (e.g., trauma, interpersonal relationships) conditions that might be the cause of the behaviors.

MDCH will not tolerate violence perpetrated on the individuals served by the public mental health system in the name of intervening when individuals exhibit certain potentially harmful behaviors. If and when interventions are to be used for the purpose of treating, managing, controlling or extinguishing predictable or continuing behaviors that are seriously aggressive, self-injurious, or that place the individual or others at risk of harm, the public mental health agency shall develop an individual behavior treatment plan to ameliorate or eliminate the need for the restrictive or intrusive interventions in the future (R. 330.7199[2][g]) and that:

- Adheres to any legal psychiatric advance directive that is present for an adult with serious mental illness;
- Employs positive behavior supports and interventions, including specific interventions designed to develop functional abilities in major life activities, as the first and preferred approaches;
- Considers other kinds of behavior treatment or interventions that are supported by peer-reviewed literature or practice guidelines in conjunction with behavior supports and interventions, if positive behavior supports and interventions are documented to be unsuccessful; or

- As a last resort, when there is documentation that neither positive behavior supports nor other kinds of less restrictive interventions were successful, proposes restrictive or intrusive techniques, described herein, that shall be reviewed and approved by the Behavior Treatment Plan Review Committee.

MDCH requires that any individual receiving public mental health services has the right to be free from any form of restraint or seclusion used as a means of coercion discipline, convenience or retaliation, as required by the 1997 federal Balanced Budget Act at 42 CFR 438.100 and Sections 740 and 742 of the Michigan Mental Health Code.

## I. POLICY

It is the policy of MDCH that all publicly-supported mental health agencies shall use a specially-constituted committee, often referred to as a "behavior treatment plan review committee" called for the purposes of this policy the "Committee." The purpose of the Committee is to review and approve or disapprove any plans that propose to use restrictive or intrusive interventions, as defined here, with individuals served by the public mental health system who exhibit seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other challenging behaviors that place the individual or others at imminent risk of physical harm. The Committee shall substantially incorporate the standards herein, including those for its appointment, duties, and functions.

## II. DEFINITIONS

Aversive Techniques: Those techniques that require the deliberate infliction of unpleasant stimulation (stimuli which would be unpleasant to the average person or stimuli that would have a specific unpleasant effect on a particular person) to achieve the management, control or extinction of seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behaviors that place the individual or others at risk of physical harm. Examples of such techniques include use of mouthwash, water mist or other noxious substance to consequate behavior or to accomplish a negative association with target behavior, and use of nausea-generating medication to establish a negative association with a target behavior or for directly consequating target behavior. Clinical techniques and practices established in the peer reviewed literature that are prescribed in the behavior treatment plan and that are voluntary and self-administered (e.g., exposure therapy for anxiety, masturbatory satiation for paraphillias) are not considered aversive for purposes of this technical requirement. Otherwise, use of aversive techniques is **prohibited**.

Consent: a written agreement signed by the individual, the parent of a minor, or an individual's legal representative with authority to execute consent, or a verbal agreement of an individual that is witnessed and documented by someone other than the service provider.

Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA): an approach that incorporates a variety of techniques and strategies to determine the pattern and purpose, or "function" of a

particular behavior and guide the development of an effective and efficient behavior plan. The focus of an FBA is to identify social, affective, environmental, and trauma-based factors or events that initiate, sustain, or end a behavior. A physical examination must be done by a MD or DO to identify biological or medical factors related to the behavior. The FBA should integrate medical conclusions and recommendations. This assessment provides insight into the function of a behavior, rather than just focusing on the behavior itself so that a new behavior or skill will be substituted to provide the same function or meet the identified need. Functional assessments should also identify situations and events that precede positive behavior to provide more information for a positive behavior support plan.

Emergency Interventions: There are only two emergency interventions approved by MDCH for implementation in crisis situations when all other supports and interventions fail to reduce the imminent risk of harm: physical management and the request for law enforcement intervention.

Imminent Risk: an event/action that is about to occur that will likely result in the potential harm to self or others.

Intrusive Techniques: Those techniques that encroach upon the bodily integrity or the personal space of the individual for the purpose of achieving management or control, of a seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behavior that places the individual or others at risk of physical harm. Examples of such techniques include the use of a medication or drug when it is used to manage, control or extinguish an individual's behavior or restrict the individual's freedom of movement and is not a standard treatment or dosage for the individual's condition. Use of intrusive techniques as defined here requires the review and approval by the Committee.

Physical Management: A technique used by staff as an emergency intervention to restrict the movement of an individual by continued direct physical contact in spite of the individual's resistance in order to prevent him or her from physically harming himself, herself, or others. Physical management shall only be used on an emergency basis when the situation places the individual or others at imminent risk of serious physical harm. To ensure the safety of each consumer and staff each agency shall designate emergency physical management techniques to be utilized during emergency situations. The term "physical management" does not include briefly holding an individual in order to comfort him or her or to demonstrate affection, or holding his/her hand. The following are examples to further clarify the definition of physical management:

- Manually guiding down the hand/fists of an individual who is striking his or her own face repeatedly causing risk of harm IS considered physical management if he or she resists the physical contact and continues to try and strike him or herself. However, it IS NOT physical management if the individual stops the behavior without resistance.
- When a caregiver places his hands on an individual's biceps to prevent him or her from running out the door and the individual resists and continues to try and

get out the door, it IS considered physical management. However, if the individual no longer attempts to run out the door, it is NOT considered physical management.

Physical management involving prone immobilization of an individual, as well as any physical management that restricts a person's respiratory process, for behavioral control purposes is **prohibited under any circumstances**. Prone immobilization is extended physical management of an individual in a prone (face down) position, usually on the floor, where force is applied to his or her body in a manner that prevents him or her from moving out of the prone position.

Positive Behavior Support: A set of research-based strategies used to increase opportunities for an enhanced *quality of life* and decrease seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behaviors that place the individual or others at risk of physical harm by conducting a functional assessment, and teaching new skills and making changes in a person's environment. Positive behavior support combines valued outcomes, behavioral, and biomedical science, validated procedures; and systems change to enhance quality of life and reduce behaviors such as self-injury, aggression, property destruction, and pica. Positive Behavior Supports are most effective when they are implemented across all environments, such as home, school, work, and in the community.

Practice or Treatment Guidelines: Guidelines published by professional organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association (APA), or the federal government.

Proactive Strategies in a Culture of Gentleness: strategies within a Positive Behavior Support Plan used to prevent seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behaviors that place the individual or others at risk of physical harm from occurring, or for reducing their frequency, intensity, or duration. Supporting individuals in a culture of gentleness is an ongoing process that requires patience and consistency. As such, no precise strategy can be applied to all situations. Some examples of proactive strategies include: unconditional valuing, precursor behaviors, redirection, stimulus control, and validating feelings. See the [prevention guide] for a full list of proactive strategies and definitions.

Reactive Strategies in a Culture of Gentleness: strategies within a Positive Behavior Support Plan used to respond when individuals begin feeling unsafe, insecure, anxious or frustrated. Some examples of reactive strategies include: reducing demanding interactions, increasing warm interactions, redirection, giving space, and blocking. See the [prevention guide] for a full list of reactive strategies and definitions.

Request for Law Enforcement Intervention: calling 911 and requesting law enforcement assistance as a result of an individual exhibiting a seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behavior that places the individual or others at risk of physical

harm. Law enforcement should be called for assistance **only when**: caregivers are unable to remove other individuals from the hazardous situation to assure their safety and protection, safe implementation of physical management is impractical, and/or approved physical management techniques have been attempted but have been unsuccessful in reducing or eliminating the imminent risk of harm to the individual or others.

Restraint: the use of a physical or mechanical device to restrict an individual's movement at the order of a physician. The use of physical or mechanical devices used as restraint is **prohibited** except in a state-operated facility or a licensed hospital. This definition excludes:

- Anatomical or physical supports that are ordered by a physician, physical therapist or occupational therapist for the purpose of maintaining or improving an individual's physical functioning
- Protective devices which are defined as devices or physical barriers to prevent the individual from causing serious self-injury associated with documented and frequent incidents of the behavior and which are incorporated in the written individual plan of services through a behavior treatment plan which has been reviewed and approved by the Committee and received special consent from the individual or his/her legal representative.
- Medical restraint, i.e. the use of mechanical restraint or drug-induced restraint ordered by a physician or dentist to render the individual quiescent for medical or dental procedures. Medical restraint shall only be used as specified in the individual written plan of service for medical or dental procedures.
- Safety devices required by law, such as car seat belts or child car seats used while riding in vehicles.

Restrictive Techniques: Those techniques which, when implemented, will result in the limitation of the individual's rights as specified in the Michigan Mental Health Code and the federal Balanced Budget Act. Examples of such techniques used for the purposes of management, control or extinction of seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behaviors that place the individual or others at risk of physical harm, include: limiting or prohibiting communication with others when that communication would be harmful to the individual; prohibiting unlimited access to food when that access would be harmful to the individual (excluding dietary restrictions for weight control or medical purposes); using the Craig (or veiled) bed, or any other limitation of the freedom of movement of an individual. Use of restrictive techniques requires the review and approval of the Committee.

Seclusion: The placement of an individual in a room alone where egress is prevented by any means. Seclusion is **prohibited** except in a hospital or center

operated by the department, a hospital licensed by the department, or a licensed child caring institution licensed under 1973 PA 116, MCL 722.111 to 722.128.

Special Consent: Obtaining the written consent of the individual, the legal guardian, the parent with legal custody of a minor child, or a designated patient advocate prior to the implementation of any behavior treatment intervention that includes the use of intrusive or restrictive interventions or those which would otherwise entail violating the individual's rights. The general consent to the individualized plan of services and/or supports is not sufficient to authorize implementation of such a behavior treatment intervention. Implementation of a behavior treatment intervention without the special consent of the individual, guardian or parent of a minor may only occur when the individual has been adjudicated pursuant to the provisions of section 469a, 472a, 473, 515, 518, or 519 of the Mental Health Code.

### III. COMMITTEE STANDARDS

- A. Each CMHSP shall have a Committee to review and approve or disapprove any plans that propose to use restrictive or intrusive interventions. A psychiatric hospital, psychiatric unit or psychiatric partial hospitalization program licensed under 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1137, that receives public funds under contract with the CMHSP and does not have its own Committee must also have access to and use of the services of the CMHSP Committee regarding a behavior treatment plan for an individual receiving services from that CMHSP. If the CMHSP delegates the functions of the Committee to a contracted mental health service provider, the CMHSP must monitor that Committee to assure compliance with this Technical Requirement.
- B. The Committee shall be comprised of at least three individuals, one of whom shall be a licensed psychologist as defined in Section 2.4, Staff Provider Qualifications, in the Medicaid Provider Manual, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Chapter, with the specified training; and at least one member shall be a licensed physician/psychiatrist as defined in the Mental Health Code at MCL 330.1100c(10). A representative of the Office of Recipient Rights shall participate on the Committee as an ex-officio, non-voting member in order to provide consultation and technical assistance to the Committee. Other non-voting members may be added at the Committee's discretion and with the consent of the individual whose behavior treatment plan is being reviewed, such as an advocate or Certified Peer Support Specialist.
- C. The Committee, and Committee chair, shall be appointed by the agency for a term of not more than two years. Members may be re-appointed to consecutive terms.
- D. The Committee shall meet as often as needed.
- E. Expedited Review of Proposed Behavior Treatment Plans:

Each Committee must establish a mechanism for the expedited review of proposed behavior treatment plans in emergent situations. "Expedited" means the plan is reviewed and approved in a short time frame such as 24 or 48 hours.

The most frequently-occurring example of the need for expedited review of a proposed plan in emergent situations occurs as a result of the following AFC Licensing Rule:

Adult Foster Care Licensing R 400.14309 Crisis intervention

(1) Crisis intervention procedures may be utilized only when a person has not previously exhibited the behavior creating the crisis or there has been insufficient time to develop a specialized intervention plan to reduce the behavior causing the crisis. If the [individual] requires the repeated or prolonged use of crisis intervention procedures, the licensee must contact the [individual's] designated representative and the responsible agency ... to initiate a review process to evaluate positive alternatives or the need for a specialized intervention plan. (Emphasis added)

Expedited plan reviews may be requested when, based on data presented by the professional staff (Psychologist, RN, Supports Coordinator, Case Manager), the plan requires immediate implementation. The Committee Chair may receive, review and approve such plans on behalf of the Committee. The Recipient Rights Office must be informed of the proposed plan to assure that any potential rights issues are addressed prior to implementation of the plan. Upon approval, the plan may be implemented. All plans approved in this manner must be subject to full review at the next regular meeting of the Committee.

- F. The Committee shall keep all its meeting minutes, and clearly delineate the actions of the Committee.
- G. A Committee member who has prepared a behavior treatment plan to be reviewed by the Committee shall recuse themselves from the final decision-making.
- H. The functions of the Committee shall be to:
  - 1. Disapprove any behavior treatment plan that proposes to use aversive techniques, physical management, or seclusion or restraint in a setting where it is prohibited by law or regulations.
  - 2. Expeditiously review, in light of current peer reviewed literature or practice guidelines, all behavior treatment plans proposing to utilize intrusive or restrictive techniques [see definitions].
  - 3. Determine whether causal analysis of the behavior has been performed; whether positive behavioral supports and interventions have been adequately pursued; and, where these have not occurred, disapprove any proposed plan for utilizing intrusive or restrictive techniques.

4. For each approved plan, set and document a date to re-examine the continuing need for the approved procedures. This review shall occur at a frequency that is clinically indicated for the individual's condition, or when the individual requests the review as determined through the person-centered planning process. Plans with intrusive or restrictive techniques require minimally a quarterly review. The committee may require behavior treatment plans that utilize more frequent implementation of intrusive or restrictive interventions to be reviewed more often than the minimal quarterly review if deemed necessary.
5. Assure that inquiry has been made about any known medical, psychological or other factors that the individual has, which might put him/her at high risk of death, injury or trauma if subjected to intrusive or restrictive techniques.
6. As part of the PIHP's Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program (QAPIP), or the CMHSP's Quality Improvement Program (QIP), arrange for an evaluation of the committee's effectiveness by stakeholders, including individuals who had approved plans, as well as family members and advocates. De-identified data shall be used to protect the privacy of the individuals served.

Once a decision to approve a behavior treatment plan has been made by the Committee and written special consent to the plan (see limitations in definition of special consent) has been obtained from the individual, the legal guardian, the parent with legal custody of a minor or a designated patient advocate, it becomes part of the person's written IPOS. The individual, legal guardian, parent with legal custody of a minor child, or designated patient advocate has the right to request a review of the written IPOS, including the right to request that person-centered planning be re-convened, in order to revisit the behavior treatment plan. (MCL 330.1712 [2])

- I. On a quarterly basis track and analyze the use of all physical management and involvement of law enforcement for emergencies, and the use of intrusive and restrictive techniques by each individual receiving the intervention, as well as:
  1. Dates and numbers of interventions used.
  2. The settings (e.g., individual's home or work) where behaviors and interventions occurred
  3. Observations about any events, settings, or factors that may have triggered the behavior.
  4. Behaviors that initiated the techniques.
  5. Documentation of the analysis performed to determine the cause of the behaviors that precipitated the intervention.
  6. Description of positive behavioral supports used.
  7. Behaviors that resulted in termination of the interventions.
  8. Length of time of each intervention.
  9. Staff development and training and supervisory guidance to reduce the use of these interventions.

10. Review and modification or development, if needed, of the individual's behavior plan.

The data on the use of intrusive and restrictive techniques must be evaluated by the PIHP's QAPIP or the CMHSP's QIP, and be available for MDCH review. Physical management and/or involvement of law enforcement, permitted for intervention in emergencies only, are considered critical incidents that must be managed and reported according to the QAPIP standards. Any injury or death that occurs from the use of any behavior intervention is considered a sentinel event.

J. In addition, the Committee may:

1. Advise and recommend to the agency the need for specific staff or home-specific training in a culture of gentleness, positive behavioral supports, and other individual-specific non-violent interventions.
2. Advise and recommend to the agency acceptable interventions to be used in emergency or crisis situations when a behavior treatment plan does not exist for an individual who has never displayed or been predicted to display seriously aggressive, self-injurious or other behaviors that place the individual or others at risk or harm.
3. At its discretion, review other formally developed behavior treatment plans, including positive behavioral supports and interventions, if such reviews are consistent with the agency's needs and approved in advance by the agency.
4. Advise the agency regarding administrative and other policies affecting behavior treatment and modification practices.
5. Provide specific case consultation as requested by professional staff of the agency.
6. Assist in assuring that other related standards are met, e.g., positive behavioral supports.
7. Serve another service entity (e.g., subcontractor) if agreeable between the involved parties.

IV. BEHAVIOR TREATMENT PLAN STANDARDS

- A. The person-centered planning process used in the development of an individualized written plan of services will identify when a behavior treatment plan needs to be developed and where there is documentation that functional behavioral assessments have been conducted to rule out physical, medical or environmental causes of the behavior; and that there have been unsuccessful attempts, using positive behavioral supports and interventions, to prevent or address the behavior.
- B. Behavior treatment plans must be developed through the person-centered planning process and written special consent must be given by the individual, or his/her guardian on his/her behalf if one has been appointed, or the parent with legal custody of a minor prior to the implementation of the behavior treatment

plan that includes intrusive or restrictive interventions.

- C. Behavior treatment plans that propose to use physical management and/or involvement of law enforcement in a non-emergent situation; aversive techniques; or seclusion or restraint in a setting where it is prohibited by law shall be disapproved by the Committee.

Utilization of physical management or requesting law enforcement may be evidence of treatment/supports failure. Should use occur more than 3 times within a 30 day period the individual's written individual plan of service must be revisited through the person-centered planning process and modified accordingly, if needed. MDCH and DHS Administrative Rules prohibit emergency interventions from inclusion as a component or step in any behavior plan. The plan may note, however, that should interventions outlined in the plan fail to reduce the imminent risk of serious or non-serious physical harm to the individual or others, approved emergency interventions may be implemented.

- D. Behavior treatment plans that propose to use restrictive or intrusive techniques as defined by this policy shall be reviewed and approved (or disapproved) by the Committee.
- E. Plans that are forwarded to the Committee for review shall be accompanied by:
1. Results of assessments performed to rule out relevant physical, medical and environmental causes of the challenging behavior.
  2. A functional behavioral assessment.
  3. Results of inquiries about any medical, psychological or other factors that might put the individual subjected to intrusive or restrictive techniques at high risk of death, injury or trauma.
  4. Evidence of the kinds of positive behavioral supports or interventions, including their amount, scope and duration that have been used to ameliorate the behavior and have proved to be unsuccessful.
  5. Evidence of continued efforts to find other options.
  6. Peer reviewed literature or practice guidelines that support the proposed restrictive or intrusive intervention.
  7. References to the literature should be included on new procedures, and where the intervention has limited or no support in the literature, why the plan is the best option available. Citing of common procedures that are well researched and utilized within most behavior treatment plans is not required.
  8. The plan for monitoring and staff training to assure consistent implementation and documentation of the intervention(s).

## Legal References

1997 federal Balanced Budget Act at 42 CFR 438.100  
MCL 330.1712, Michigan Mental Health Code

MCL 330.1740, Michigan Mental Health Code

MCL 330.1742, Michigan Mental Health Code

MDCH Administrative Rule 7001(l)

MDCH Administrative Rule 7001(r)

Department of Community Health Administrative Rule 330.7199(2)(g)

