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Social Services Manual

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Category / Incapacity Determination/ PEP

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Revision Author: Melissa Mathson

Division CSD

Mail Stop 45470

Phone (360) 725-4563

Email mathsmc@dshs.wa.gov

Summary

The Incapacity Determination chapter was updated to add clarifying information related to the mental health rule changed (WAC 388-448-0050)

— CLARIFYING INFORMATION

1. The Short Clinical Scale is no longer used in the mental health community and has been removed from the psychological evaluation form. Any symptom that affects a work function and is listed in the DSM IV may be listed by the mental health provider.
2. Only consider symptoms that have an impact on work function when determining incapacity.
3. Don't consider diagnosis and symptoms of alcohol or substance abuse, or dependence, when determining incapacity through the PEP.
4. Alcohol and substance use information is requested in order to differentiate between substance use and mental health symptoms, and to provide information for the development of a case plan.
5. A symptom that was not observed by the evaluator may be considered when determining incapacity accepted if consistent with others symptoms of a diagnosis the evaluator observed.
6. The Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) is commonly used in the mental health community to provide an overall assessment of how well a person is functioning. Factors such housing and employment may be used by a mental health provider when assigning a GAF.

Note: A low GAF score based primarily homelessness or lack of employment must be adjusted to

be consistent with the person's mental health symptoms. Give clear and convincing reasons when changing any rating given by a health professional.

The following chart describes AXIS I through AXIS V:

<u>AXIS I</u>	<u>Clinical disorders, including major mental disorders, as well as developmental and learning disorders.</u> <u>Common Axis I disorders include depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, Autism, phobias, and schizophrenia.</u>
<u>AXIS II</u>	<u>Underlying pervasive or personality conditions, as well as mental retardation.</u> <u>Common Axis II disorders include personality disorders and mental retardation.</u>
<u>AXIS III</u>	<u>Acute medical conditions and physical disorders.</u> <u>Common Axis III disorders include brain injuries and other medical/physical disorders, which may aggravate existing diseases or present symptoms similar to other disorders.</u>
<u>AXIS IV</u>	<u>Psychosocial and environmental factors contributing to the disorder.</u> <u>Factors such as homelessness and employment status are reflected in Axis IV.</u>
<u>AXIS V</u>	<u>Global Assessment of Functioning. Used by mental health professionals and physicians to subjectively rate the social, occupational and psychological functioning of adults. See chart below.</u>

7. The following chart lists the GAF score ranges with descriptions of functioning and the associated severity rating.

<u>Severity Rating</u>	<u>GAF</u>	<u>Description of functioning.</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>80-100</u>	<u>Absent to minimal symptoms with good to superior functioning in all areas.</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>60-79</u>	<u>Some mild or transient symptoms that are expectable reactions to psychological stress.</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>50-59</u>	<u>Moderate symptoms or any moderate difficulty in social, occupational, or school functioning.</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>30-49</u>	<u>Serious symptoms or impairment in social functioning. May have some impairment in reality testing or communication.</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>1-29</u>	<u>Behavior is influenced by delusions or hallucinations, inability to function in all areas.</u>

WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

Adjustment Points

On the DSHS 13-021A865, Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluation form:

1. **In section D.2:** When an organic mental syndrome condition is identified as deteriorating, add one adjustment point to the severity rating.
2. **In section D.3:** For a functional mental disorder, the ~~global illness score~~ Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) (in ~~ED.3.m1.~~) is the severity rating. If there are three or more ~~boxes checked~~ symptoms with a more severe rating than the ~~global illness rating~~ GAF, raise the severity rating by one adjustment point.

NOTE: In all cases, only one adjustment point per disorder type (organic or functional) is allowed.

EXAMPLE

In section ~~ED.13.m.~~ of the Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluation form, Tom has a ~~global illness~~ GAF rating of 50-59 (moderate), which is a "3" severity rating. In section ~~D.3.~~, the psychologist has rated Tom as having "marked" severity ~~in-on~~ two ~~psychological symptoms categories~~ and "severe" ~~in-on~~ ~~another one category~~ symptom. Since there are three categories that have a higher rating than the ~~global illness rating~~ GAF of "3," you would add one adjustment point, resulting in an adjusted severity rating of "4."