



MENTAL RETARDATION BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DATE OF ISSUE

February 9, 1987

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately

NUMBER

4398-87-01

SUBJECT Clarification of Definition of Developmentally Disabled Persons Receiving Services in Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded

BY

Joseph J. Scartelli
Acting Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation

SCOPE

Administrators, State-Operated ICF/MR Programs
Administrators, Non-State Operated ICF/MR Programs
Regional MR Program Managers
County MH/MR Administrators

PURPOSE

To provide clarification to ICF/MR providers regarding the deletion of "autism" by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) from the definition of "persons with related conditions".

BACKGROUND

On December 31, 1986, Mental Retardation Bulletin, Number 42-435-86-01 was issued. This Bulletin conveyed the revised HCFA definition of "persons with related conditions" as published in the Federal Register, Vol. 51, No. 102, May 28, 1986, which became effective June 27, 1986. In this Bulletin, we noted that additional clarification on the issue of ICF/MR services for autistic persons would be issued by HCFA in the near future.

HCFA recently released Transmittal No. 23, dated December, 1986, revising Section 4398 of the State Medicaid Manual - Part 4, Services. This Section contains the new definition of "persons with related conditions".

APPLICATION

HCFA has stated that while "autism" is not listed specifically in the definition contained in Section 4398, Persons with Related Conditions, "autism" is a disorder which is developmental in nature and routinely requires treatment similar to that provided to mentally retarded persons and "persons with related conditions". As a result, ICF/MR placements for autistic persons are generally appropriate.

Additionally, HCFA has stated that even a facility dedicated to the treatment of autistic persons could be appropriately considered to be an ICF/MR since such beneficiaries are clearly covered under Medicaid and deserve ICF/MR services as appropriate to their needs.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Frank L. Pierce, Director, Bureau of ICF/MR Administration & Management, OMR, Room 302, Health & Welfare Bldg., Harrisburg, PA 17120. Telephone: 717-783-5314; Network: 8-443-5314.