

Agency Name:	Dickinson Center, Inc., 43 Servidea Drive, Ridgway, Pennsylvania 15853
Policy:	Outpatient Discharge Policy
Effective Date:	March 1, 2013 (last revision), October 31, 2016
Revised Date:	January 1, 2014, July 1, 2015, October 4, 2016
Distribution List:	Outpatient clinicians and staff

Policy:

Consumers will be admitted to and provided with behavioral health and/or psychiatric outpatient treatment services consistent with best practice standards as well as applicable regulatory requirements, administrative entity policies, and payer requirements. The discharge planning process will begin at the time of admission. Open consumers who no longer meet regulatory and payer standards for medical necessity will be discharged from services.

Discharge from services falls into one of four principle categories: (1) Treatment goals/objectives have been met and there is established mutual agreement by the clinician and the identified consumer that services are no longer needed or warranted; (2) Consumer notifies DCI of relocation outside of the DCI outpatient service area; (3) Treatment goals have not been met due to a determination that the consumer's needs exceed the medical necessity criteria of an outpatient engagement. Consumers in this category will be recommended to transfer to another recommended level of care or programming. If accepted by the consumer, discharge planning will be completed and the consumer will be discharged from outpatient services as applicable; and (4) Consumer does not engage in treatment or maintain adherence to the established and agreed upon treatment plan and/or does not comply with attendance policy as defined in the *Outpatient Consumer Compliance and Engagement Policy and Procedure.(10/31/2016)*

Additionally, clients who have not been seen for outpatient services for a period of greater than 7 months will be discharged from this level of care, unless a future appointment has already been scheduled. In the majority of such cases, the future appointment will likely be for psychiatric follow-up support and will be maintained on behalf of the consumer. A consumer in violation of the *Outpatient Consumer Compliance and Engagement Policy and Procedure.(10/31/2016)* will not be able to re-engage for 6 months following a discharge due to noncompliance.

Consumers will be offered referral sources to engage in treatment with alternate providers as requested by consumers or applicable to the discharge category.