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Memorandum

To: 1915(i) HCBS referring and rendering providers, community partners and Community Mental Health Programs

From: Jessica Carroll, FFS Operations and Quality Assurance manager

Date: July 30, 2026

Subject: 1915(i) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Referral Documentation Standards Update

Effective July 31, 2026, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is updating [Oregon Administrative Rule \(OAR\) 410-173-0045](#) to no longer require the following documentation for referrals for a Plan of Care (POC) authorization for individuals referred for the 1915(i) HCBS program:

- Mental Health Assessments (MHA)
- Residential Care/Treatment Plans
- Progress Notes

Instead, the referral packet only needs to include documentation that:

- Is dated within the past 18 months,
- Confirms a qualifying psychiatric diagnosis, and
- Is signed by a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) or Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA) within the scope of their license or certification. (OAR 309-039-0510, 410-120 0000 (264)).

The Independent and Qualified Agent, Comagine Health, will:

- Accept any additional documentation, but it is no longer required.
- Review all submitted documentation to complete the functional needs assessment and person-centered service plan.

Why is this happening?

The interRAI Community Mental Health (CMH) assessment tool uses multiple information sources and methods to collect the functional information needed to determine 1915(i) HCBS eligibility, such as:

- Documentation,
- Observation, and
- Interviews with the individual, providers, caregivers, and others who know the individual.

This change:

- Reduces the amount of information required to submit 1915(i) HCBS referrals,
- Reduces administrative burden,
- Streamlines the 1915(i) HCBS referral process and
- Increases timely access to services for the 1915(i) HCBS program.

What should you do?

Starting July 31, 2026, submit referrals according to the new documentation standards. Providers and community partners can submit referrals through:

- The Comagine Health Provider Portal (for required provider types) or
- Secure email or fax (for non-required provider types).

OHA will provide an update when referral forms that reflect these changes are available online and in the Comagine Health Provider Portal.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the 1915(i) HCBS Policy Unit 1915i.MedicaidPolicy@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Thank you for your continued support and the services you provide to our members.