



## DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICAL SERVICES

**Control #** [REDACTED]    **Rev. Date:** 11/2023    **Title:** DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures    **Effective Date:** 11/2023  
**Next Review Date:** 11/2025

### 1.0 POLICY:

The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Clinical Services Branch shall establish a standardized assessment process utilizing the DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptoms Measures.

### 2.0 PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standardized process of assisting clinicians with assessing patients' mental health domains across psychiatric diagnoses utilizing the DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures. These measures are intended to help clinicians identify additional areas of inquiry that may have significant impact on the patient's treatment and prognosis. In addition, the measures may be used to track changes in the patient's symptom presentation over time.

### 3.0 SCOPE:

DPBH Clinical Services Branch.

### 4.0 DEFINITIONS:

4.1 **DSM-5** – The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, (DSM-5) is a resource for psychiatrists, other physicians and health professionals to diagnose and classify mental disorders with concise and explicit criteria intended to facilitate an objective assessment of symptom presentations in a variety of clinical settings.

4.2 **DPBH** – the Division of Public and Behavioral Health

### 5.0 REFERENCES: N/A

## **6.0 PROCEDURE:**

- 6.1 The agencies and programs of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health that serve clients with mental and substance use disorders shall utilize the DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures when an individual is requesting services at those agencies and programs.
- 6.2 The DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures must be administered at the time of:
  - 6.2.1 Individual's initial presentation to the inpatient or outpatient services;
  - 6.2.2 Readmission to the inpatient services; or
  - 6.2.3 Restarting outpatient services after their treatment with the DPBH administered agency or program was discontinued.
- 6.3 The DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures can be administered at the clinician's discretion at any other time at the clinician's discretion, when such administration can facilitate tracking changes in the patient's symptom presentation over time.
- 6.4 The DPBH agencies and programs can utilize either paper or electronic forms when administering the DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures. Each agency and program shall determine which forms they should utilize based on the program and patient needs.
- 6.5 If an agency or a program determines that utilizing paper forms of the DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures is preferred for their operations:
  - 6.5.1 That agency or a program must establish a mechanism of transferring the findings from the paper form into the electronic record.
  - 6.5.2 Upon entering the data into the electronic health record, the agency or the program should dispose the paper form in a manner consistent with the DPBH established practices of disposing records containing patient protected health information.
- 6.6 If a patient is not able or not willing to participate in the screening utilizing the DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures:
  - 6.6.1 The DPBH agencies and programs shall develop a process of reassessing the patient at the time when the patient is able and willing to complete the screening.
  - 6.6.2 The agencies and programs shall work with their patients to complete the screening to the best of patient's ability.

- 6.6.3 The fact of incomplete screening, the reasons for the incomplete screening, and all subsequent attempts to complete the screening must be documented in the patient's electronic medical records.
- 6.7 The DPBH medical staff and other clinicians who are responsible for diagnosing and treating patients with mental and substance use disorders must review the findings in the DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures at the time of completing initial psychiatric evaluation, acknowledge pertinent findings in the electronic medical records, and evaluate further the areas of inquiry that may have significant impact on the patient's treatment and prognosis based on patient's responses on the Symptom Measures.
- 6.8 The DPBH medical staff and other clinicians who are responsible for diagnosing and treating patients with mental and substance use disorders should consider readministering the DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures to track changes in the patient's symptom presentation over time as clinically indicated. They will be responsible for the process of readministering the symptom measures and documenting pertinent findings in the electronic medical records.

**7.0 ATTACHMENTS:** N/A

**8.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY:**

Each Division agency shall implement this policy and may develop specific written protocols and procedures as necessary to do so effectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE: [REDACTED]

DATE APPROVED BY DPBH ADMINISTRATOR: [REDACTED]

DATE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: [REDACTED]