



The SMI Evaluation and Determination Process

SMI – What does it mean?

Serious Mental Illness (SMI) is a designation used in Arizona to identify adults who need additional support because mental illness severely impacts their ability to function.

What will an SMI determination do for me?

- People with an SMI designation may have access to some mental health services (even if they do not have AHCCCS):
 - Case management,
 - Medication management,
 - Therapy
 - Crisis services and
 - Additional services based on need including: peer support, transportation, housing, etc.

What will an SMI determination do for me?

***People with an SMI designation do not automatically qualify for all available services. Services are rendered based on individual need.**

What does Crisis Response Network (CRN) do?

- CRN reviews assessments and makes an SMI determination. CRN completes all SMI determinations in Arizona.
 - Note: Mental health providers complete the assessment and submit it to CRN. CRN does not complete the assessment.

The SMI Determination Process

- You can request an SMI assessment by asking your current Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) provider or call the Tribal or Regional Behavioral Health Authority (T/RBHA).
- You will meet with the mental health provider within seven days of asking.

The SMI Determination Process

- The mental health provider submits your assessment to CRN.
- CRN has 3, 20, or 90 days to make the decision depending on your case.
- Once the decision is made, you will receive information on how to get services or how to appeal the decision.

What qualifies for SMI?

You must have a qualifying diagnosis

- Psychotic Disorders, Bi-Polar Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders, Major Depression or Mood Disorders, Anxiety Disorders, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Dissociative Disorder and Personality Disorders.

You must meet functional criteria

- Inability to live independently,
- A risk of serious harm to self or others,
- Dysfunction in role performance or
- Risk of deterioration.

The Appeal Process

- Every individual has the right to appeal their SMI decision within 60 days of the decision.
- You can meet with a different doctor than the one that made the original decision by:
 - Face-to-Face
 - Video Conferencing
 - Teleconference
- If you wish to appeal this decision, you have the right to request an administrative hearing.

How long will an SMI determination last?

- Generally, this designation lasts indefinitely unless you request to have it removed.
- **Decertification:** This is the term used to for the decision that a person is no longer designated SMI.
 - A person can ask to be assessed for whether they *still* meet SMI criteria.
 - If a person has not used their SMI services in over two years, they may request to be automatically decertified by AHCCCS.

Questions/Comments?

CRN Eligibility and Care Services

1-855-832-2866

Website

<https://www.crisisnetwork.org/smi/community/#what-is-smi-determination>