

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 8/23/2018	NUMBER: A-08.6 Page 1 of 3
	Replaces: 3/7/2017	
	Formulated: 7/98 Reviewed: 07/2021	
MEDICALLY RECOMMENDED INTENSIVE SUPERVISION (MRIS) SCREENING		

PURPOSE: To establish procedures for submitting medical and mental health summaries for ill inmates who meet criteria for Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS) as outlined in Texas Government Code 508.146

POLICY: A medical and/or mental health summary will be provided to the Texas Correctional Office for Inmates with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI) for use in consideration of inmates for Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision.

DEFINITIONS: **Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision (MRIS):** A program established by Texas Government Code Section 508.146 which provides that certain categories of inmates are eligible for early parole based on their medical conditions. The purpose of Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision is to identify eligible inmates in TDCJ facilities who could be diverted from incarceration to more cost-effective and appropriate treatment alternatives.

MRIS MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (one or more of the following conditions required):

Terminally ill: Having an incurable condition expected to result in death within six (6) months regardless of life sustaining treatment and requiring skilled nursing, hospice or home health care.

Elderly: An inmate sixty-five years of age or older.

Physically Handicapped: Having a severe, chronic disability that is likely to continue indefinitely and results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, self-direction, learning, receptive and expressive language, mobility, capacity for independent living, or economic self-sufficiency. These limitations are reflected in the inmate’s need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services of extended or lifelong duration that are individually planned and coordinated.

Mentally Ill: Per Section 571.003, Texas Health and Safety Code means an illness, disease or condition that either substantially impairs an inmate’s thoughts, perception, or reality, emotional process, judgment, or grossly impairs an inmate’s behavior, as manifested by recent disturbed behavior.

Developmentally Disabled (formerly mentally retarded) Per Section 591.003, Texas Health and Safety Code means significantly sub-average general intellectual functioning that is concurrent with deficits in adaptive behavior and originates during the developmental period until the age of 18.

Long Term Care: Care provided to a person who is deficient in the area of self-care and where there is a reasonable medical probability that the clinical condition(s) producing that inability will not change over time and requires

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nursing care.

Organic Brain Syndrome: Any of a group of chronic syndromes involving temporary or permanent impairment of brain function caused by trauma, infection, toxin, tumor or tissue sclerosis, and causing mild to severe impairment of memory, orientation, judgment, intellectual functions and emotional adjustment.

Persistent Vegetative State: A condition of profound non-responsiveness in the wakeful state caused by brain damage at any level and characterized by a non-functioning cerebral cortex, absence of response to the external environment, akinesia, mutism, and inability to signal.

Special needs patients include those with health conditions that require regular care.

MRIS REFERRAL REQUIRED FOR:

1. All patients in a persistent vegetative state
2. All patients with an organic brain syndrome *and* significant to total mobility impairment (i.e. bed bound)
3. All patients who meet criteria for Hospice or Permanent Infirmity status
4. All patients with significant mobility impairments, no expectation of improvement, and requiring 24 hour licensed nursing care
5. All patients with life expectancy less than 6 months (i.e., terminally ill)
6. Patients with mental illness and/or significant *developmental or acquired* cognitive impairment but without history or suspected propensity for violent or destructive behavior (e.g. schizophrenia, dementia, developmentally disabled etc.)
7. Cancer patients with advanced/metastatic disease
8. ESKD patients with MELD score ≥ 22
9. HIV/AIDS patients with CD4 < 50

PROCEDURE:

- I. A MRIS medical screening form (Attachment A) will be completed by a health care provider if an inmate meets eligibility criteria, or alternatively, upon request from TCOOMMI.
 - A. Requests from TCOOMMI for a medical screening form must be completed no later than three (3) working days from receipt unless a more urgent or expedited review is requested. Extensions of the deadline will not be granted, but the provider should submit an updated screening form if information critical to the accuracy of the screening changes after submission.
 - B. Medical screening forms may be completed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.
 - C. The medical screening form should be completed in the note builder section of the EHR or printed from EHR FORMS and scanned into the EHR

- II. A MRIS medical or mental health summary (Attachment B) will be completed by a health care

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provider upon request from TCOOMMI.

- A. Medical summaries must be completed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.
- B. Mental Health summaries must be completed by a licensed psychiatrist or physician assistant / nurse practitioner trained as a CMC mental health provider.
- C. By law, a qualifying diagnosis for a MRIS summary must be confirmed by a physician or psychiatrist. Confirmation will be indicated by physician/psychiatrist signature on the MRIS Referral form.
- D. The MRIS summary should be completed in the note builder section of the EHR or printed from EHR FORMS and scanned into the EHR. A request for a medical or mental health summary from TCOOMMI must be completed no later than five (5) working days from receipt unless a more urgent or expedited review is requested. A provider may request an extension of the deadline. An extension will be granted ONLY if information critical to the accuracy of the summary is pending and can be obtained within a time period acceptable to TCOOMMI.

Reference: Texas Government Code Section 508.146, Medically Recommended Intensive Supervision
TCOOMMI MRIS Procedures (Effective 02/01/2008)
ACA Standard 4-4399 (Ref 3-4369) Special Needs
Texas Health and Safety Code, Sections 591.003 and 571.003