



## **Co-Occurring Disorders Screening Program Description**

The Nevada Behavioral Health Systems (NBH) Co-occurring Disorders Screening Program has been designed to make the CAGE or CAGE Aid readily available to practitioners in order to screen for the existence of a co-occurring Substance Related Disorder. The Screening Program has been developed to assist both members and providers who are seeking assistance in identifying and treating potential co-occurring disorders. Unidentified and consequently untreated coexisting mental health and substance abuse problems can create a myriad of problems that are often related to the highest treatment costs. Mueser, et al. (2006) report that in clinic samples as many as 40-60% of individuals presenting in mental health settings have a co-occurring substance use diagnosis, and 60-80% of individuals presenting in a substance abuse facility have a co-occurring mental illness diagnosis.

Nevada Behavioral health's Co-Occurring Disorders Screening Program is based on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) TIP 42: Substance Abuse Treatment for Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders. The recommended tools are straightforward and allow for both practitioners use or member self-screening to maximize identification of co-occurring disorders.

## **Eligible Members**

Any NBH member who is at risk for a co-occurring Substance Related Disorder who presents for assessment and/or treatment is eligible for the screening. NBH may also use data such as psychosocial assessment, treatment records, PCP or psychiatric referrals, diagnosis codes, care coordination, complex case management, or member self-referral to identify members who may be eligible for the screening.

## **Frequency**

The CAGE/CAGE Aid are designed to be conducted primarily upon initial screening; however, due to the shifting nature of psychiatric symptoms compounded by alcohol and/or other drug use, this screening program may be conducted at any time during the course of treatment for diagnostic purposes, level of care needs, on-going treatment/length of stay, and discharge readiness purposes.

## **Conditions**

The Co-Occurring Screening is indicated whenever Substance Related Disorders are displayed by a member, when the practitioner suspects a co-occurring disorder is present, or as a matter of routine screening to determine diagnosis and treatment planning.

## **Practitioner Input**

Practitioner input on NBH's Co-Occurring Screening Program is acquired through the Quality Improvement Committee.

**Promotion**

NBH's Co-Occurring Screening Program is promoted to practitioners via the NBH website, where the tools may be accessed freely by both members and providers.