

**CHAPTER 37G**  
**SHORT TERM CARE FACILITY STANDARDS**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 30:4-27.8, 30:4-27.9 and 30:4-27.10.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2002 d.221, effective June 17, 2002.  
See: 33 N.J.R. 3887(a), 34 N.J.R. 2451(a).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

Chapter 37G, Short Term Care Facility Standards, expires on June 17, 2007.

**Chapter Historical Note**

Chapter 37G, Short Term Care Facility Services, was adopted as R.1997 d.153, effective April 7, 1997. See: 29 N.J.R. 1313(a).

Chapter 37G, Short Term Care Facility Services, was readopted as R.2002 d.221, effective June 17, 2002. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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**SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**10:37G-1.1 Scope and purpose**

(a) The rules in this chapter shall apply to all Division designated short term care facilities (STCF) for adults.

(b) The Mental Health Screening Law (N.J.S.A. 30:4-27.1 et seq.) authorizes the establishment of STCFs to provide assessment services and short term, intensive psychiatric care to individuals with acute mental illness. Patients are admitted to STCFs through a Division designated screening center which has determined that the patient meets the commitment standard of mentally ill and dangerous to self or others, needs intensive treatment, and that appropriate, less restrictive services or facilities are not otherwise available for the patient. The goal of STCFs is to resolve the psychiatric emergency precipitating admission in

a location close to the patient's home within an acute length of stay. Services are provided to restore the individual as soon as possible to a level of functioning which promotes return to community residence and ambulatory treatment, or to ensure further inpatient treatment if needed.

**10:37G-1.2 Definitions**

The following words and terms, as used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Acute care" means community and in-patient psychiatric services designed to provide stabilization during the acute phase of psychiatric illness.

"Acute care system" means those services either contracted for, licensed by or designated by the Division as part of a geographic area's acute care services. They include, but are not limited to: screening center, emergency services, short term care facility, affiliated voluntary inpatient service, acute partial care, crisis housing, integrated case management, and programs of assertive community treatment.

"Assessment" means evaluation of the individual in crisis in order to ascertain his or her current and previous level of functioning, psychosocial and medical history, potential for dangerousness, current psychiatric and medical condition, factors contributing to the crisis, and support systems that are available.

"Certified screener" means an individual who has fulfilled the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:31-3.3 and has been certified by the Division to assess a patient to determine if he or she meets the standard for commitment.

"Comparable STCFs" means:

1. Facilities in the same region;
2. Facilities which are similar in size; and/or
3. Facilities which serve similar populations (for example, urban, suburban, etc.).

"Consensual" means the type of admission applicable to a person who has received a face-to-face assessment from a certified screener and screening psychiatrist at a designated screening center, who is determined to be dangerous to self, others or property by reason of mental illness, and who understands and agrees to be admitted to a STCF for stabilization and treatment.

"Dangerous to others or property" means that by reason of mental illness there is a substantial likelihood that the person will inflict serious bodily harm upon another person or cause serious property damage within the reasonably foreseeable future. This determination takes into account a person's history, recent behavior and any recent act or threat.

"Dangerous to self" means that by reason of mental illness the person has threatened or attempted suicide or serious bodily harm, or has behaved in such a manner as to indicate that the person is unable to satisfy his need for nourishment, essential medical care or shelter, so that it is probable that substantial bodily injury, serious physical debilitation or death will result within the reasonably foreseeable future; however, no person shall be deemed to be unable to satisfy his need for nourishment, essential medical care, or shelter if he is able to satisfy such needs with the supervision and assistance of others who are willing and available.

"Department" means the Department of Human Services.

"Designated screening center" means a public ambulatory care service designated by the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services and located in or adjacent to an emergency room in a general hospital, which provides mental health services including assessment, screening, emergency and referral services for mentally ill persons in a specified geographic area. A designated screening center is the facility in the public mental health care system wherein a person who may be in need of treatment at a short-term care facility (STCF) or a State or county psychiatric hospital or a unit in a special psychiatric hospital undergoes an assessment to determine what mental health services are appropriate for the person and where those services may be appropriately provided.

"Designation as a short term care facility" means that a facility has received approval for a certificate of need (CON) application by the Department of Health in consultation with the Division and that the Division has determined that the STCF applicant meets all of the rules of this chapter and is authorized to begin operating as a STCF, provided that the unit also meets applicable Department of Health licensure requirements. The application for designation shall be submitted at least 60 days prior to planned implementation.

"DHSS" means the Department of Health and Senior Services.

"Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS)" means a collaborative outreach program designed to engage, support, and integrate individuals with serious mental illness into the community and facilitate their use of available resources and supports in order to maximize their independence.

"Mental illness" means a current, substantial disturbance of thought, mood, perception or orientation which significantly impairs judgment, capacity to control behavior or capacity to recognize reality, but does not include simple alcohol intoxication, transitory reaction to drug ingestion, organic brain syndrome or developmental disability unless it results in the severity of impairment as defined herein. The term mental illness is not limited to "psychosis" or "active psychosis," but shall include all conditions that result in the severity of impairment described herein.

"Psychiatric facility" means a State psychiatric hospital listed in N.J.S.A. 30:1-7, a county psychiatric hospital, a psychiatric unit of a county hospital, or a special psychiatric hospital.

"Psychiatrist" means a physician who has completed the training requirements of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry.

"Rehabilitation/creative arts" means disciplines with a defined course of study addressing assessment and treatment for persons with mental illness. Such disciplines will be licensed or credentialed by their respective associations. Rehabilitation/creative arts may include, but need not be limited to, rehabilitation specialists, art, music, dance/movement, drama, occupational, and recreational therapy.

"Short term care facility (STCF)" means an acute care adult psychiatric unit in a general hospital for short term admission of individuals who meet the legal standards for commitment and require intensive treatment. The STCF shall be designated by the Division of Mental Health Services to serve residents of a specific geographic area within the State. All admissions to short term care facilities must be referred through a designated emergency/screening mental health service.

"Special psychiatric hospital" means a public or private hospital licensed by the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide voluntary and involuntary mental health services, including assessment, care, supervision, treatment and rehabilitation services to persons who are mentally ill.

"Systems review committee (SRC)" means a group of representatives of State and county hospitals, acute care provider agencies, family members and consumers, including STCFs, who, under the auspices of the county mental health board and the Division, participate in the monitoring of the acute psychiatric services system in a geographic area. These committees also recommend revisions to the acute care service delivery system for the purpose of improving the service delivery for the patients they share in common.

Amended by R.2002 d.221, effective July 15, 2002.

Sec: 33 N.J.R. 3887(a), 34 N.J.R. 2451(a).

Added "Acute care", "Acute care system", "Assessment", "Certified screener", "Comparable STCFs", "Consensual", "Dangerous to others or property", "Dangerous to self", "Department", "DHSS", "Integrated Case Management Services (ICMS)", "Mental illness", "Psychiatric facility", "Rehabilitation/creative arts" and "Special psychiatric hospital"; deleted "Community liaison"; in "Designated screening center", deleted "psychiatric" following "short-term care"; in "Short-term care facility (STCF)", inserted "residents of" preceding "a specific geographic area".