



Children with Complex Needs (CWCN)

What is it?

The CWCN settlement agreement between NC DHHS and Disability Rights North Carolina ensures that youth identified with complex needs are aligned with the appropriate diagnostic testing and services.

Who are the youth?

Children with complex needs are those ages 5-20 who have a developmental/intellectual disability and a mental health disorder diagnosis and are at risk of continued or new placement outside of the community setting.

How are the youth identified?

Identification is based on paid claims for any one or combination of the following service events within the past year:

- Emergency room visit for a behavioral health need
- Admission to or treatment in facility-based crisis
- Psychiatric inpatient hospitalization
- Admission to, treatment in or discharge from PRTF (in or out of state)
- Dispatch of mobile crisis management
- Admission to, treatment in or discharge from one of the child specialty programs at Murdoch Center (TRACK, PATH, STARS) children >18 years
- More than three dates of non-community service (i.e., inpatient, facility-based crisis, PRTF, ED for behavioral health needs, ICF-IDD) in the past year.

Continued

Requirements for TCM providers

- Participation in clinical rounds with an Alliance-based medical team minimally consisting of a physical health nurse, child psychiatrist, psychologist and a psychologist specializing in TBI/IDD minimally.
 - Clinical rounds are held twice per month.
 - Youth for staffing will be selected by Dr. Uzama Price.
 - TCM provider will be notified upon selection.
- Completion of the children with complex needs consult form. The form must be submitted to Shelly Harris, sharris@AllianceHealthPlan.org, at least five days before the staffing.
 - Ensure the person most knowledgeable about the case completes the consult form and attends the meeting.
- Ensure the youth's TCM care team is informed about the recommendations from the clinical rounds
- Coordination of care for recommendations from the staffing and any additional needs that may arise for the youth.

References:

- Price, U (1/05/2023). Children with Complex Needs Settlement Agreement. Alliance Health. Morrisville, NC. [AllianceHealthPlan.org](https://www.AllianceHealthPlan.org).
- Rachel Johnson. 2022. Children with Complex Needs Program: LME-MCO/Tailored Plan System Supports. Division of Child and Family Wellbeing.