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Hello and thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Chap 5230 regulations for Psychiatric Rehabilitation.

I am still reviewing the document, as I believe are others here at Magellan. I did want to make one comment more personally re: Admission Requirements before I miss the opportunity.

The new diagnoses an individual may have that do not require review through the exception process include posttraumatic stress disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder and anxiety disorders.

My comment is to please consider adding autism spectrum disorders to the list of diagnoses that do not require review through exception. Since 2019, Magellan has been running a pilot program for autistic members in psych rehab in three Lehigh Valley area provider agencies. We have done so through amendment to program service descriptions and exception process. We have received technical assistance from ASERT and discussed this with the Bureau of Autism Services. The program is successfully implemented at Western Psych in Pittsburgh, successful in the Lehigh Valley, and is being considered by primary contractors in the Northcentral PA Zone and CCBH. The outcomes and growth potential through recovery education and skills development is evident, and I think it is important to make it easier for all that want to provide the service to do so without additional exception steps.

Thank you kindly for the opportunity to provide comment.

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