

## PRENATAL DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES POLICY

### I. INTENT

It is the intent of San Andreas Regional Center to provide education and access to diagnostic services.

### II. DEFINITION

*Prenatal diagnostic services* are services used prior to the birth of an infant to detect a condition that may lead to a developmental disability. Such services may include: Amniocentesis, sonogram, karotyping, biochemical determination, and other accepted diagnostic tools.

*Genetic services* include medical testing and counseling to detect risk factors that may lead to a diagnosis of a developmental disability. They are usually provided at genetic centers, perinatal centers, county health departments, and private or specialty clinics.

### III. POLICY

It is the policy of San Andreas Regional Center to encourage families at potential risk to pursue all available information regarding causes and prevention of developmental disabilities. This may include referral to existing resources and collaboration with health education agencies.

San Andreas Regional Center shall authorize prenatal diagnostic services or genetic services to any person based on any of the following criteria:

- The female applicant is over thirty-five (35) years of age
- There is a history of chromosome anomalies in a previous child or children
- Either parent has chromosomal translocation
- Both parents are known carriers of a gene causing inherited metabolic disease or have had a child with inherited metabolic disease
- A member of the family is known to have mental retardation and the etiology (causes) is unknown

### IV. PURCHASE OF SERVICE (POS) STANDARD

Any generic agency which has a legal responsibility to serve all members of the general public and which is receiving public funds for providing prenatal and genetic services must be explored prior to authorization of these services by San Andreas Regional Center.

### V. EXCEPTION PROCESS

The executive director has full discretion to authorize service purchases which are exceptions to the board-adopted purchase of service policies. The executive director has designated different members within the organization who may authorize a director's exception. They are called the director's designees.

The first formal discussion of a request for service takes place at the planning team meeting. If the request falls within the service policy, the request is granted.

If the request for service is not consistent with the policy, the service coordinator starts the exception review process by exploring the basis for the request. A time line for the director's

exception review is set by agreement between the consumer/family and the service coordinator but the time line may not exceed fifteen (15) days. Within that time, another planning team meeting will be convened. In the meantime the coordinator presents the information to the manager to determine whether a director's exception may be warranted.

At the scheduled planning team meeting the decision will be made. The director's designee will attend the planning team meeting if necessary.

If the exception is granted, the service coordinator amends the person-centered individual program plan, notifies the consumer/family, and gives a copy of the amended plan to the consumer/family.

If the exception is not granted, the service coordinator promptly informs the consumer/family that it has not been granted, informs the consumer family of their appeal rights, and sends a notice of action and a fair hearing form.

## VI. NOTICE OF ACTION

If a decision is made to deny, reduce, or cancel the service without the agreement of the consumer or the consumer's representative, a Notice of Action will be sent.

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