

ODP Announcement

Clarification on Declining a Communication Assessment Report

ODP Communication Number 092-18

The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs is to support Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence, choice and opportunity in their lives.

AUDIENCE: Administrative Entity (AE) Administrators or Directors, County Administrators, and Supports Coordination Organizations (SCO)

PURPOSE: To clarify the use of the Harry M. indicator in HCSIS when a class member has declined the Communication Assessment.

DISCUSSION: According to the Harry M. Settlement Agreement, a Communication Assessor will complete a Communication Assessment Report (CAR) for each class member. After reviewing many individuals' Individual Support Plans (ISPs) who have declined the CAR, it has become apparent that there is some confusion regarding the Harry M. indicator for these individuals.

According to the ODP Announcement 099-16, "Class members have the right to refuse an assessment, but this does not mean that the indicator should be removed. Declining an assessment does not mean that the individual is no longer a class member." Therefore, if a Harry M. class member declines the CAR, their Harry M. indicator within HCSIS should remain checked.

Additionally, "during the next ISP meeting, regardless of when it is to be held, the SC will remind the individual that (s)he has the right to receive an assessment." It is important to discuss the option for the assessment at each annual ISP meeting with the individual and their team. This should be documented in a service note.

For more information about this, please view [ODP Announcement 099-16](#) and/or [January 21, 2014 HCSIS Enhanced Communication Job Aid](#).

For questions, please contact RA-ODPDeafServices@pa.gov