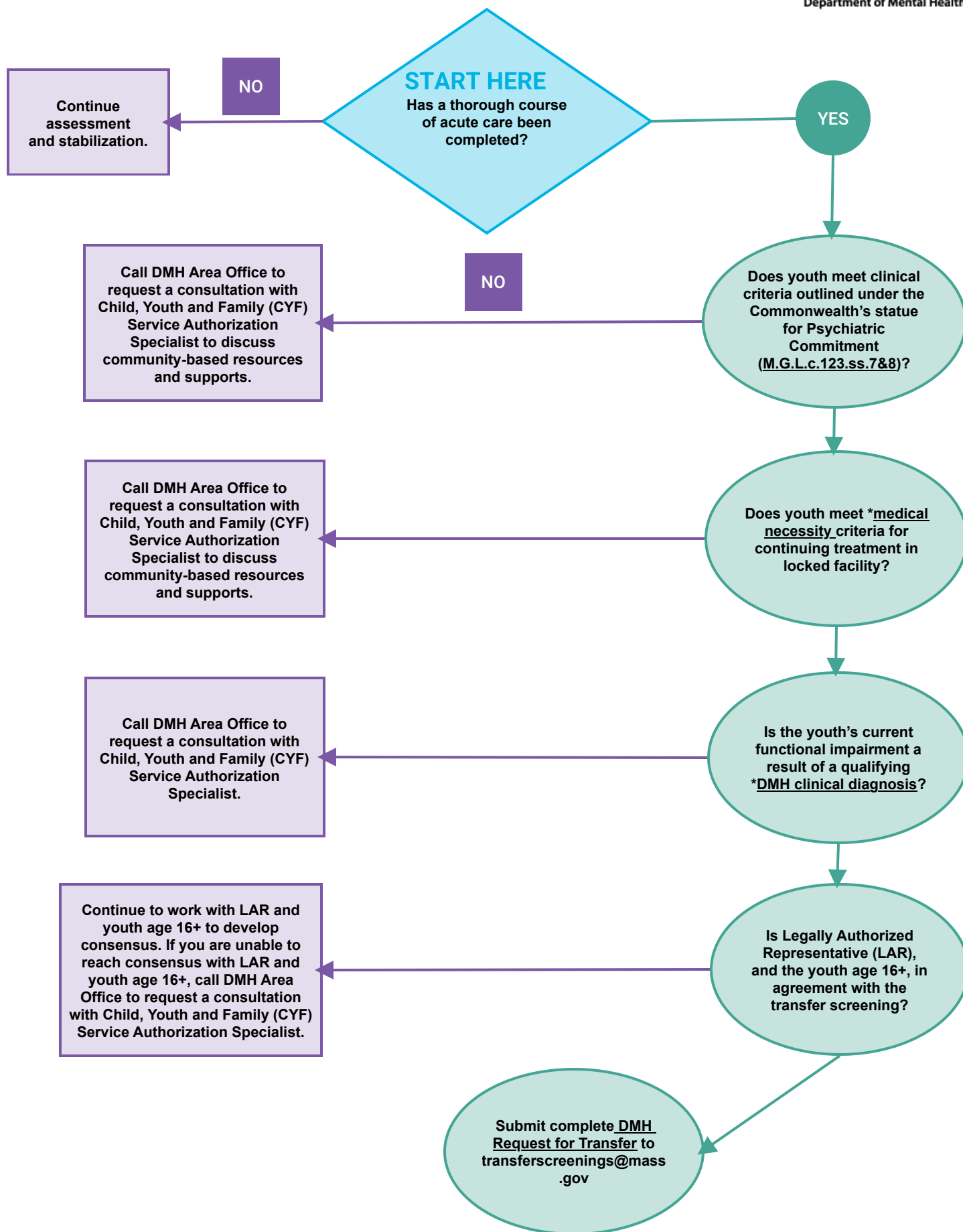


MASS DMH HOPE • EQUITY • SERVICE
Department of Mental Health



***Medical Necessity**

In ADDITION to meeting criteria for psychiatric commitment, the youth must meet at least one of the following criteria: Requires ongoing medication treatment which can only be safely monitored in a locked setting Unable to perform ADL's and requires inpatient nursing and psychiatry-directed medical interventions Presents with medical problems that complicate psychiatric management be safely treated at a less restrictive level of care Services must be reasonably expected to improve the youth's condition.

***Clinical Criteria as outlined under the Commonwealth's statute for Psychiatric Commitment**

The standard is whether the individual would "create a likelihood of serious harm by reason of mental illness."³

"Likelihood of serious harm" means one of three things:

- The person poses a substantial risk of physical harm to him/herself as manifested by evidence, threats of, or attempts at suicide or serious bodily injury; or
- The person poses a substantial risk of physical harm to others as evidenced by homicidal or violent behavior or evidence that others are in reasonable fear of violent behavior and serious physical harm from that person; or
- The person's judgment is so affected that there is a very substantial risk that the person cannot protect himself or herself from physical impairment or injury, and no reasonable provision to protect against this risk is available in the community. ⁴

³ Mass. Gen. L. ch. 123, § 12(a).

⁴ Mass. Gen. L. ch. 123, § 1.

***Clinical Criteria Child and Youth Services. To meet the clinical criteria to receive DMH services**

individuals younger than 22 years old at the time of application, must have a serious emotional disturbance that, except as provided in 104 CMR 29.04(3)(c)(2), meets diagnostic criteria for a diagnosis specified within the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), which is the primary cause of functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits the individual's performance of one or more major life activities, and is expected to do so in the succeeding year.

For more information please review the full regulation [104 CMR 29](#)