

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH REFERRAL

MODULE EIGHTEEN

A simple tool to assist officers in referral to mental health includes the following six questions:

Questions	Present? Y/N
Is the inmate excessively isolating himself/herself from staff and other inmates?	
Is the inmate's behavior persistently erratic and/or bizarre?	
Are the sleeping and eating patterns of the inmate causing concern?	
Has there been a sudden unexplained change in the inmate's presentation, such as stopping work for no obvious reason?	
Has the inmate's personal hygiene appeared strange, changed suddenly, or deteriorated?	
Does the inmate have any other symptoms that are likely to suggest a mental illness?	
Total # of Yes answers	

If the answer to **two or more of** these questions is 'yes,' the officer should refer the inmate to mental health staff for further evaluation.