



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center • Dix Building  
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary  
Michelle A. Gourdine, M.D., Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services – Brian M. Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director

June 10, 2008

Dear Director of Mental Hygiene Administration's Community Mental Health Program:

This is to update you on new Mental Hygiene Administration (MHA) requirements and policy clarifications for the public mental health system (PMHS). This includes additional clarifications to: MHA regulations for COMAR 10.21.16, 10.21.17, 10.21.20, 10.21.21, and 10.21.29.; payment for services to individuals meeting MHA's uninsured criteria; and requirements for services to dually eligible Medicare/Medicaid recipients.

Effective September 1, 2008 the following requirements are to be implemented by all PMHS providers

1. MHA is requiring documentation and verification of all individuals who are requesting or have been determined eligible for uninsured Public Mental Health System (PMHS) benefits. The enclosed form shall be completed at the time of request and updated annually.
2. Due to federal and state enforcement, MHA will no longer reimburse for services, except Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs (PRP) services, for individuals with Medicare. Providers shall meet Medicare requirements when serving individuals with Medicare/Medicaid (MC/MA). This includes all requirements for physician on site, appropriate service providers, and other Medicare requirements. According to the CMS publication "MNL Matters #SEO441" which can be accessed at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMArticles/downloads/SEO441.pdf>, Medicare will allow "incident to" billing by therapists not recognized as independent practitioners, (e.g. LCPC) if the physician is on site. MHA does not have the ability to override these requirements. Licensed mental health professionals currently treating consumers with MC/MA shall seek approval to become Medicare providers.
3. For all new requests for PRP service for adults and every six months thereafter, referral by a mental health professional will be required. This is the same requirement for PRP services to minors. Referrals may be from the individual's treating mental health professional, discharge referral from a hospital, or other mental health program. The program's rehabilitation specialist shall not refer the individual to the PRP.



Director of Mental Hygiene Administration's Community Mental Health Program

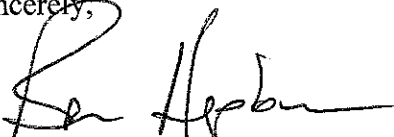
Page 2

June 10, 2008

If you have any questions please contact Ms. Lissa Abrams, Acting Deputy Director, MHA on [abramsl@dhmh.state.md.us](mailto:abramsl@dhmh.state.md.us) or Sharon Ohlhaber, Chief, Quality Management Community Programs [sohlhaber@dhmh.state.md.us](mailto:sohlhaber@dhmh.state.md.us).

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to these requirements.

Sincerely,



Brian Hepburn, M.D.  
Executive Director

Enclosures: Uninsured Documentation Form  
PRP for Minors Regulation Clarification  
COMAR –Corrections and Additional Clarifications (June 2008)

cc: Maryland Association of Core Service Agencies  
MHA Management Committee  
Sharon Ohlhaber, MHA  
William Dorrill, OHCQ  
Jennifer Hubert, MAPS-MD  
Lisa Hadley, M.D., MAPS-MD  
Nancy Calvert, MAPS-MD