North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Michael Moseley, Director

March 15, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: Legislative Oversight Committee Members
Commission for MH/DD/SAS
Consumer/Family Advisory Committee Chairs
State Consumer Family Advisory Committee Chairs
Advocacy Organizations and Groups
North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
County Managers
County Board Chairs
North Carolina Council of Community Programs
NC Association of Directors of DSS
State Facility Directors
Area Program Directors
Area Program Board Chairs
DHHS Division Directors
Provider Organizations
MH/DD/SAS Professional Organizations and Groups
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups
Other MH/DD/SAS Stakeholders

From: Mike Moseley

Re: **Communication Bulletin #070**
Adult Substance Abuse Target Populations Expanded

I am pleased to announce that effective March 19, 2007 the Division will be adding a new Adult Substance Abuse IPRS target population for **Treatment Engagement and Recovery (ASTER)**.

The addition of this target population will immediately assure statewide eligibility for substance abuse assessment and treatment services for an adult consumer with a primary substance abuse or dependence disorder who is not already eligible for services through a current target population.

The purpose of the Treatment Engagement and Recovery target population is to promote broadened eligibility for primary substance abuse treatment services for which a provider may be reimbursed. It is our goal that the addition of this new target population eligibility will enhance LME efforts to develop a provider system that supports an accessible and responsive service array for primary substance abuse consumers. Client eligibility criteria for this population includes those adults who are ages 18 and over with a primary alcohol or drug abuse disorder and who require substance abuse services initiation, engagement, and/or continuity of treatment services and supports for relapse prevention and recovery stability. Services should be immediately available to this population, and will generally be limited in duration and intensity.

LMEs and their contract agencies will be reimbursed retroactively to July 1, 2006 for designated IPRS substance abuse assessment and treatment services that have been provided per Division standards by licensed, certified, and qualified substance abuse professionals, associate professionals, and paraprofessionals to consumers that meet the eligibility for this new adult substance abuse target population.

A period of "blanket presumptive eligibility" covering substance abuse assessment and treatment services provided to this population group will be approved for services provided between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. During the July 2006 through June 2007 period of presumptive eligibility, it will be permissible for providers to bill for all covered services delivered to this population even though the period of service for some consumers may exceed the two 90-day eligibility periods that are being established for ASTER target population consumers within a single fiscal year, effective July 1, 2007.

A follow-up communication will provide LMEs with further technical details regarding the eligibility requirements for this target population.

The new revised Services Array and Target Population details will be posted on the IPRS web site at http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/iprsmenu/index.htm. For questions or further information about IPRS please contact IPRS Q&A at <iprs.qanda@ncmail.net>. For questions regarding target population details contact Spencer Clark at Spencer.Clark@ncmail.net or 919-733-4670.

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom
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