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LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #J232

Date: January 12, 2017

To: LME-MCOs

From: Linda Rascoe, Associate Director, Community Based Services, DMA and Mabel McGlothlen, Team Leader for System Performance and Project Management, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: Clinical Coverage Policy 8C: Nurse Practitioner Credentialing

This bulletin informs LME-MCOs and providers that Clinical Coverage Policy 8C will be reposted with one technical change affecting the credentialing of nurse practitioners. The implementation date is January 1, 2017.

DMA held meetings with several stakeholders including nurse practitioners, psychiatric mental health providers, supervising physicians, representatives from North Carolina Nursing Board, North Carolina Nursing Association, North Carolina Psychiatric Association, and the academic training programs offering Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner certifications. Also participating were many providers currently working in the field providing mental health services.

The policy changes for the credentialing of nurse practitioners in the Outpatient Clinical Coverage Policy 8C will include the following:

1. Removing the current timeline of July, 2017 for nurse practitioners to become Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners in order to continue providing services to Medicaid beneficiaries.
2. Nurse practitioners certified as pediatric, adult, geriatric or family nurse practitioners not yet certified as Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners could be eligible to provide psychiatric services to Medicaid beneficiaries if they meet the following:
 - a. Provide documentation to the credentialing body of the LME-MCO that they have 5 full-time years of psychiatric prescribing experience under psychiatric supervision including psychiatric assessments and psychotropic medication prescribing;
 - b. A signed supervision agreement with a North Carolina Licensed Psychiatrist that covers prescribing activities; and

- c. A minimum average of 20 hours of Category 1 CME/CEUs focusing on diagnosis and psychopharmacology over the preceding three years.
3. The LME-MCO credentialing body and Medical Director are responsible for assessing the qualifications of Nurse Practitioners not yet certified as Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners and for monitoring supervision and CME/CEU completions.

If you have any questions, please contact Bert Bennett at bert.bennett@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-855-4299.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins>

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