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LME-MCO Communication Bulletin # J270

Date: November 2, 2017
To: LME-MCOs
From: Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, DMA
Lisa Haire, Assistant Director, Quality Management and Operations, DMH/DD/SAS
Subject: Verification of Education

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide information to the LME-MCOs and providers regarding accreditation of diplomas and GEDs. Currently, the NC Innovations Waiver does not require that a diploma or GED be obtained from an accredited school. NC Administrative Code 10A NCAC 27G.0104 states the following:

"Paraprofessional" within the MH/DD/SAS system of care means an individual who, with the exception of staff providing respite services or personal care services, has a GED or high school diploma; or no GED or high school diploma, employed prior to November 1, 2001 to provide a MH/DD/SAS service.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provider monitoring tool review guidelines use the phrase "verify both education and experience" with respect to staff documentation and qualifications. It is DHHS's interpretation the 'verification' referenced in the provider monitoring tool refers to receiving sufficient evidence that a person graduated from the school or received a GED. 'Verification' does not refer to a school's accreditation.

Please refer questions to monica.hamlin@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-855-4336.

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

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