



NC DEPARTMENT OF
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HUMAN SERVICES**

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LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J402

DATE: September 29, 2021

TO: Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

FROM: Renee Rader, Assistant Director for Policy and Programs, DMH/DD/SAS
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SUBJECT: Amendment to Joint Communication Bulletins #J301 and #J328 – Submission and Monitoring of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) In-At Risk Checklists

This bulletin amends [Joint Communication Bulletin #J301](#) and [Joint Communication Bulletin #J328](#), which were distributed on Aug. 17, 2018, and June 6, 2019, respectively, to provide information on policies and revisions made to the In-At Risk Checklist used by IPS providers to identify individuals who are part of the In-At Risk population.

The amendment is a result of findings from monitoring efforts completed by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) staff and feedback from the Independent Reviewer. The findings are:

- The IPS Verification Excel master spreadsheet that is managed by DMH/DD/SAS accounts for a significant number of people who, despite being referred, have not received the IPS service.
- A significant number of people did not meet In-At Risk criteria for homelessness.
- The number of Transition to Community Living (TCL) recipients and people who meet criteria for In-At Risk being successfully enrolled in the IPS service remains very low. A significant number of people who meet In-At Risk criteria who are referred to the IPS service are not representative of people with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) who may be at risk of placement in a congregate living facility. In order to meet substantial compliance with the Settlement Agreement, it is vitally important that the IPS service is serving those most at risk.

To address the above findings, the following are required of each LME-MCO:

- Effective Oct. 1, 2021, each LME-MCO shall submit in their monthly reports to DMH/DD/SAS the names of people who have been identified as TCL or meeting criteria for In-At Risk only after verifying that the person received at least one unit (or one milestone) of IPS service.
- Increase monitoring and education to IPS providers on In-At Risk homelessness criteria as defined in [Joint Communication Bulletin #J328](#).

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- Monitor referrals from behavioral health providers to the IPS service and provide education, particularly to Community Support Teams (CST) and Transitional Management Services (TMS) on their role in promoting employment as part of recovery to all people served, particularly TCL recipients and those who meet In-At Risk criteria.

The procedures and schedule for submitting reports remain in effect as outlined in Joint Communication Bulletins #J301 and #J328. DMH/DD/SAS will continue to monitor the quality of In-At Risk determinations through desk reviews of In-At Risk checklists and supporting documentation.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Herring at 984-236-5057 or Margaret.herring@dhhs.nc.gov.

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

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