



PROVIDER ALERT

Alert # 6 – 2006 – 05 – 05 – HCAL, HCCH, HCYA, HCBerks, HCNE

SCREENING FOR CO-OCCURRING MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS (MISA)

Assuring that Members are screened for both mental health and substance abuse issues

As you know, Community Care has been working with providers over the past two years to insure the completion of MISA screenings on all members age 14 and older, which are receiving mental health or substance abuse treatment. Community Care has been gathering MISA screening information from providers during regular utilization reviews and, for outpatient services, on the Outpatient Registration forms (OPR). Overall, providers have done an outstanding job of screening members for the presence of co-occurring disorders and making appropriate referrals for members identified with a co-occurring disorder through the MISA screening process.

Community Care also encourages the screening of children younger than 14 for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, as well as screening for any mental health or substance abuse problems in the family. In the upcoming year, Community Care will begin educating providers about the importance of MISA screening for children under the age of 14 as Best Practice, since first use or experimentation with drugs or alcohol often starts prior to age 14. In addition, Community Care will be offering education to Child and Adolescent providers about the importance of family MISA assessments in the provision of services to children and adolescents. We welcome your feedback as we work with you over the next year to improve the assessment of both mental health and substance abuse issues in children, adolescents and families.

As a reminder, all the MISA screening information/fields for members age 14 and older must be completed on the Outpatient Registration form in order for the OPR form to be processed. The age will be calculated based upon the OPR begin date. The OPR forms will be rejected if any of the following occurs:

- a.) Forms that indicate a MISA Screening was not completed; or
- b.) The date of the MISA screening was not identified or was performed longer than 90 days prior to the submission of the OPR form; or
- c.) Forms that do not indicate whether a co-occurring disorder was identified; or
- d.) If a co-occurring disorder was identified and a referral was not indicated on the form.

If any of the above items occur, providers will receive a letter stating that the OPR was rejected and the reason for the rejection. Providers will be required to resubmit the OPR with the required MISA fields completed in order for the OPR to be processed.

For your convenience, we have included the MISA Referral Categories again for your reference. If you should have any questions pertaining to the recent change in the process, please feel free to contact your Provider Relations Representative.

MISA Referral Categories

MH IP = Inpatient Psychiatric Hospitalization

MH OP = Partial; Intensive Outpatient Program; Individual, Family or Group Therapy, Medication Checks

MH Res = Mental Health Residential services – including Diversion Acute Stabilization, CRR, LTSR, Supported Housing services, Enhanced Personal Care Boarding Home, etc.

DA OP = Outpatient Drug & Alcohol treatment services including Partial and IOP

DA IP = Inpatient Detoxification, Inpatient Rehabilitation and Non-Hospital Detoxification

DA Res – Non-Hospital Residential Rehabilitation, Halfway House, Three Quarter Way House, etc.

MISA program – Licensed MH or licensed D&A program that offers treatment and supportive services for both Mental Illness and Substance Abuse problems. Such programs clearly identify themselves as MISA or Dual programs.

Community Service – non-clinical supportive services including self-help groups, support groups, religious activities, case management, recovery supports, advocacy groups, education groups, etc.

When conducting routine medical chart audits, Community Care will determine provider compliance with the expectation that appropriate referrals are given to members with co-occurring disorders and documented. We appreciate your assistance in tracking this information as we endeavor to ensure that members are receiving appropriate treatment.

Community Care also recommends that providers consider converting to the Web-Based Outpatient Registration process. This process eliminates the need to order and complete paper based OPR forms and also provides an instant response regarding your registration request, along with a registration number for your records. If you would like additional information pertaining to the Web-Based Outpatient Registration, please contact your Provider Relations Representative.