



# PROVIDER ALERT



Alert #16 – 8-25-2008– HCAL, HCY/A, HCB, HCCH, HCNE, HCNC, HCMP

## **BHRS PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

**For All BHRS Programs who provide services to members currently with a diagnosis of Autistic Disorder, as well as the associated disorders of: Asperger’s Disorder, Rett’s Disorder, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, NOS**

Community Care is reissuing BHRS Performance Standards for Autism Spectrum Disorders. These Standards were completed February 21, 2006, and updated August 6, 2008. This document can be used by all Community Care Contracts/Counties beginning on or before October 1, 2008.

These Clinical/Administration practice guidelines on Autism Spectrum Disorders, developed with the assistance of parents, professionals, and other stakeholders, are intended to establish common goals between Community Care and its providers, members, families and other stakeholders. These are not regulations or limitations on practice or request(s) for medically necessary services. The group of providers, prescribers, and parents who developed these guidelines encourages members to remember that treatment should always be tailored to the individual child. Not all of the recommendations will be appropriate for all situations.

These standards are intended to provide a foundation and serve as a tool to promote continuous quality improvement and progression toward best practice performance, increase the consistency of service delivery, and improve outcomes for children, adolescents, and their families. In some instances, the standards set the bar higher than regulatory requirements. However, these standards reflect the current level of quality within the network and the commitment of all involved stakeholders to continually strive to improve the quality of service delivery to individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

These standards should not be interpreted as regulations, nor will they be utilized as a means of requiring or prohibiting specific interventions for specific individuals. Each child or adolescent receiving behavioral health services requires a uniquely developed treatment plan, which identifies strengths and addresses needs.

In order to review these Performance Standards, please access the Community Care website:

<http://www.ccbh.com/pdfs/Providers/performanceStandards/BHRSforAutismSpectrumDisorders.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding the Performance Standards, please do not hesitate to contact Customer Service immediately for assistance.