



PROVIDER ALERT



Alert # 7 08-01-2010 HCAL, HCBK, HCCH, HCCMP, HCNC, HCNE, HCY/A

CHANGE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL / PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATIONS FOR BHRIS AND AUTHORIZATION TIME FRAMES FOR BHRIS SERVICES

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2010

In accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) Bulletin, OMHSAS-10-04, Community Care Behavioral Health Organization is revising its requirement for the psychological/psychiatric re-evaluations and re-authorizations for BHRIS services (a copy of the Bulletin is attached).

Effective August 1, 2010, except for children and adolescents with behavioral health needs compounded by developmental disorders such as autistic disorder or other pervasive developmental disorders, the comprehensive psychological/psychiatric evaluations for the purpose of prescribing BHRIS services will be required at the initiation of treatment and once every six (6) months thereafter, unless a family member or a treating professional believes that a re-evaluation is necessary prior to the expiration of a six month period in order to adequately address the child's needs. The six (6) month intervals also apply to the completion and submission of the treatment plan, plan of care, and documentation of the Interagency Service Planning Team meeting.

If the need for a Summer Therapeutic Activities Program is identified or requested during the authorization period, an addendum, rather than a complete evaluation, may be used to request the service.

If a re-evaluation is identified or requested by the treatment team before the end of the authorization period and the re-evaluation recommends the continuation of the same level of service, a re-authorization request is not required. If the re-evaluation recommends a new service or an increase in the level of service, a re-authorization request must be submitted.

If you have any questions related to this change, please feel free to contact your Care Manager or Provider Relations Representative at 1-888-251-2224.