Alert #10  8-21-2012 – HCAL, HCYA, HCBK, HCCK, HCBK, HCER, HCNE, HCNC

**Prescriber Responsibilities if Using Psychology Assistants* for BP Evaluations/Re-evaluations**

This update to the Community Care provider alert # 1 – 2007 –01-18 – HCAL, HCYAB, HCCH, HCNE, HCNC, is being issued to enhance the clarity of the role and responsibility of the Licensed Psychologist Prescriber when using Psychology Assistants during BP evaluations or re-evaluations.

In some parts of the Commonwealth there is very limited access to licensed psychologists and psychology assistants sometimes complete evaluations without any face-to-face involvement by the licensed psychologist. Community Care will allow this practice to continue. However, we require licensed prescribers to continue to participate in all Best Practice evaluations and re-evaluations unless access issues make that option impossible.

Please note that, if psychology assistants are conducting parts of or the entire BP evaluation, according to the PA Code, these individuals must be, “designated by and directly supervised by the licensed prescriber”. Please refer to Chapter 41** of the PA Code for Psychologists by the State Board of Psychology for additional information.

Community Care requires the prescriber to review the case w/the psychology assistant who conducted parts of or the entire evaluation to assure that all of the following are completed and documented as such in the child’s final report and/or the supervision record:

1. The symptoms are clearly defined, i.e., history, nature, frequency, and severity.
2. The prescriber’s comments on and interpretation of the standardized measure is included in the final report.
3. Results from the current administration of the standardized measure are compared to results from previous administrations and compared/discussed in the evaluation or re-evaluation.
4. The prescriber shall have the final decision over the diagnosis.
5. The prescriber assures that the recommendations for BHRS meet Appendix T Medical Necessity Criteria.
6. The prescriber makes the final recommendations which include other service systems, natural and community supports, the clinical direction for all prescribed services, and realistic discharge criteria as defined by the member/family.
7. The prescriber assures that the evaluation has been completed in the Best Practice format (or preferred prescriber format if required in Allegheny County).
8. The psychology assistant and the prescriber sign off on the evaluation as defined per the PA Code.
9. The case consultation between the prescriber and the psychology assistant is documented in the supervision record.
Psychology Assistants (referred to as supervisees or trainees in Chapter 41) are unlicensed persons with graduate training in psychology, also known as professional employees with graduate training in psychology; please refer to Chapter 41 from the State Board of Psychology for a complete list of qualifications.

** Chapter 41 of the PA Code for Psychologists by the State Board of Psychology can be accessed via the Internet at: [http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter41/chap41toc.html](http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter41/chap41toc.html)

Thank you.