Alert # 12 – 2005 – 11 – 08 - HCAD, HCAL, HCBK, HCCH, HCYO

Clinical Practice Guidelines

Community Care utilizes Clinical Practice Guidelines to help practitioners and members make decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances. These evidence-based guidelines are reviewed at least annually, updated as appropriate and approved by Community Care’s Quality and Care Management Committee.

The Clinical Practice Guidelines referenced in the current HealthChoices Provider Manual have changed due to the American Psychiatric Association’s discontinuation of the Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Substance Use Disorders. The guideline adopted in place of the APA guideline is the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide. You can view this new guideline at http://www.nida.nih.gov/PODAT/PODATIndex.html

In addition, an update to the American Psychiatric Association Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder (Second Edition) was published in March 2005. You can view this update at http://www.psych.org/psych_pract/treatg/pg/MDD_Watch_031005.pdf

Community Care measures performance against each of the Clinical Practice Guidelines via claims data or record reviews. Providers are notified of the results of these measurements via newsletter articles or web-based communications. To obtain a copy of the guidelines, contact the American Psychiatric Association, 1400 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005 or visit the APA Website at http://www.psych.org/psych_pract/treatg/pg/prac_guide.cfm for the guideline on Major Depressive Disorder. Contact the National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 5213, Bethesda, MD 20892 or visit the NIDA Website at http://www.nida.nih.gov/PODAT/PODATIndex.html for the guideline on substance use. For more information about the Clinical Practice Guidelines, contact Community Care at 1-888-251-2224.