



ASSOCIATION
FOR BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Vic DiGravio, President/CEO
RE: Massachusetts Standardized Documentation Project (MSDP)
DATE: July 26, 2010

As you know, the Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), formerly Mental Health and Substance Abuse Corporations of Massachusetts (MHSACM), is the sponsoring organization for the Massachusetts Standardized Documentation Project (MSDP). ABH conceived the MSDP as an essential step in the transition to electronic health records for ABH members and other community-based providers of behavioral health care. Over the past year a number of ABH members have begun to integrate MSDP forms and manuals into their practice.

ABH, through the MSDP Leadership Team, is now embarking on the first MSDP Annual Review process. The purpose of the annual review process is to: (1) Ensure the forms fully meet all compliance requirements, including any that have been implemented since the forms first went into use; (2) Ensure that the design of the forms is facilitating person centered high quality care; and (3) To identify ways in which the forms may be modified to make them easier to use for clinicians and other provider staff.

Simultaneously, representatives from ABH member organizations and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) have been jointly engaged in recent months on a separate track to make more immediate revisions to MSDP forms and manuals used in DMH-funded Community Based Flexible Support (CBFS) programs. DMH had previously mandated use of CBFS forms and manuals by all providers contracted to offer CBFS services.

Last week, DMH Deputy Commissioner Marcia Fowler sent the attached correspondence to all CBFS provider organizations notifying them of a revised CBFS Service Note, Manual and quarterly review process to be implemented no later than September 1, 2010 (although DMH has acknowledged that a delayed implementation will be necessary for providers who have incorporated the CBFS Service Note into their electronic health record). The revised materials were developed collaboratively by CBFS provider representatives and DMH staff.

ABH and the MSDP Leadership Team have reviewed and approved the new forms and manuals. Although the process to review and update the forms was done outside the MSDP annual review, ABH and the MSDP Leadership Team had endorsed this process in recognition that a separate and more timely review was needed because use of the MSDP forms was mandated for CBFS providers by DMH. ABH is grateful to all the members of the MSDP/Rehab Option Workgroup who participated in this process.

In addition to the memo from DMH Deputy Commissioner Marcia Fowler, also attached to this memo are the revised CBFS Services Note, the CBFS Service Note Manual, and a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions about this matter or the MSDP in general. Thank you.