



# Provider Alert

ALERT #69

July 10, 2009

## **CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE: MASSHEALTH GETS APPROVAL FOR FIVE MORE NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUTH UNDER 21**

*The following information should be noted and communicated immediately to all pertinent offices within your organization.*

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal Medicaid agency, recently gave its approval of the State Plan Amendment (SPA) necessary for MassHealth to pay for five additional behavioral health services under the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI). This decision follows the agency's previous approval last December of the new service "Intensive Care Coordination" (ICC), bringing the total number of approved new behavioral health services to six. The June 4<sup>th</sup> approval now gives MassHealth the authorization to provide Family Support and Training (provided by "Family-Partners") and Mobile Crisis Intervention, both effective June 30, 2009, In-Home Behavioral Services and Therapeutic Mentoring Services, both effective October 1, 2009, and In-Home Therapy Services, effective November 1, 2009 for eligible MassHealth-enrolled youth under age 21. Currently, Crisis Stabilization remains the only service in need of CMS approval.

### **Limited Availability of CBHI Services**

A final clarification has been received from MassHealth regarding the availability of CBHI services to members in various benefit plans. Current specifications for most CBHI services limit these services to members in MassHealth Standard and CommonHealth.

Below are the details of the available CBHI services to members in the various benefit plans and their respective effective dates.

- Effective June 30, 2009, Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) will be available only to members in MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth benefit plans who have been diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance (SED). Members in Family Assistance, Basic, or Essential are not eligible for Intensive Care Coordination (ICC). Members in these benefit plans who otherwise meet medical necessity criteria for this service should be directed to apply for CommonHealth coverage, as they should meet the eligibility requirements for CommonHealth based on disability.
- Effective June 30, 2009, Family Support and Training will be available only to members in MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth benefit plans. Members in Family Assistance, Basic, or Essential are not eligible for Family Support and Training. Members in these benefit plans

who otherwise meet medical necessity criteria for this service should be directed to apply for CommonHealth coverage, as they should meet the eligibility requirements for CommonHealth based on disability.

- Effective June 30, 2009, Mobile Crisis Intervention will be available for all MassHealth members under 21 regardless of benefit plan.
- Effective October 1, 2009, Therapeutic Mentoring and In-Home Behavioral Services will only be available to members in MassHealth Standard and CommonHealth benefit plans. Members in Family Assistance, Basic, or Essential are not eligible for Therapeutic Mentoring and In-Home Behavioral Services. Members in these benefit plans who otherwise meet medical necessity criteria for these services should be directed to apply for CommonHealth coverage, as they should meet the eligibility requirements for CommonHealth based on disability.
- Effective November 1, 2009, In-Home Therapy will be available for all MassHealth members under 21 regardless of benefit plan.

Given the above, verification of the appropriate benefit plan (i.e., Standard and CommonHealth) is a critical step in ensuring that children and families receive the appropriate needed services. Providers should routinely refer to the NewMMIS Eligibility Verification System (EVS) (which has replaced the Recipient Eligibility Verification System (REVS)) to check each child's category of eligibility.

If you have questions regarding this *Alert*, please contact our Community Relations Department at **1-800-495-0086 (press 1 for the English menu or 2 for the Spanish menu, then 3, then 1 to skip prompts)**, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.