



Provider Alert

ALERT #75

September 3, 2009

ADDITIONAL CREDENTIALING REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-HOME BEHAVIORAL SERVICES PROVIDERS

The following information should be noted immediately to your chief executive officer, chief operating officer, program director, billing director, and staff.

This *Provider Alert* corresponds to the In-Home Behavioral Services Performance Specifications and should be reviewed alongside that document. The purpose of this *Alert* is to inform providers that, in addition to the requirements set forth in the In-Home Behavioral Services Performance Specifications, additional credentialing requirements must be met in order to provide this service.

As noted within the In-Home Behavioral Services Performance Specifications, In-Home Behavioral Services are delivered by one or more members of a team consisting of professional and paraprofessional staff, offering a combination of medically necessary Behavior Management Therapy and Behavior Management Monitoring.

Behavior Management Therapy: This service includes a behavioral assessment (including observing the youth's behavior, antecedents of behaviors, and identification of motivators); development of a highly specific behavior plan; supervision and coordination of interventions; and training other interveners to address specific behavioral objectives or performance goals. This service is designed to treat challenging behaviors that interfere with the youth's successful functioning. The behavior management therapist develops specific behavioral objectives and interventions that are designed to diminish, extinguish, or improve specific behaviors related to the youth's behavioral health condition(s) and which are incorporated into the behavior plan and the risk management/safety plan.

Behavior Management Monitoring: This service includes implementation of the behavior plan; monitoring the youth's behavior; reinforcing implementation of the behavior plan by the parent(s)/guardian(s)/caregiver(s); and reporting to the behavior management therapist on implementation of the behavior plan and progress toward behavioral objectives or performance goals. Phone contact and consultation may be provided as part of the intervention.

In response to consultation with national experts and other stakeholders, and in response to research on implementation of this service in other states, specific credentialing standards will be required of providers of this service.

In addition to the requirements set forth in the In-Home Behavioral Services Performance Specifications, the two additional credentialing requirements are:

1. ***Behavior Management Therapy:*** The master's level (or above) clinician who is the Behavior Management Therapist must be a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Please refer to the Behavior Analyst Certification Board web site for certification requirements: <http://www.bacb.com/>.
2. ***Behavior Management Monitoring:*** Behavior Management Monitors with either a bachelor's or associate's degree must have a minimum of one (1) year of direct ABA/Behavioral Therapy experience, under supervision of a BCBA, working with youth and families who require behavior management to address mental health needs.

If you have any questions regarding this *Alert*, please send an e-mail to the following mailbox: MBHPCBHI@valueoptions.com. Thank you on behalf of the MassHealth Managed Care Entities (MCEs).