



Provider Alert

ALERT #76

September 22, 2009

CHANGES TO YOUTH SERVICES: FST, IHTS, CSP, and TM

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

Beginning November 1, 2009, Family Stabilization Team (FST) services for youth under the age of 21 are being enhanced and renamed as “In-Home Therapy Services” (IHTS). **The last date of service for “FST” services for MBHP Members is October 31, 2009.** Any FST dates of service after this date will not be reimbursed. Effective November 1, 2009, “In-Home Therapy Services” (IHTS) will be available for all MBHP Members under the age of 21 who meet medical necessity criteria for these services.

Effective October 1, 2009, Therapeutic Mentoring (TM) will be available to Members enrolled in the MassHealth Standard or the CommonHealth benefit plans. Members enrolled in MassHealth Family Assistance, Basic, or Essential benefit plans are not eligible for Therapeutic Mentoring. Members who are not eligible for TM based on benefit plan alone, but who otherwise meet the medical necessity criteria for TM, should be encouraged to apply for the CommonHealth benefit plan.

Community Support Program (CSP) services for youth under the age of 21 will continue as a MassHealth-covered service and will be authorized based on the medical necessity criteria for the service.

CSP and TM will be authorized based on clinical presentation, treatment needs, and medical necessity. It is *not* expected that Members under the age of 21 would have both an authorization for CSP and an authorization for TM open and active during the same period of time.

Provider verification of the qualifying benefit plan (i.e., Standard and CommonHealth) is a critical step in establishing that youth enrolled in MassHealth are eligible to receive TM services, and that providers can submit claims for TM services. These two benefit plan types can be determined using EVS by looking for the two benefit plan names (MassHealth Standard and CommonHealth) under the field labeled “Eligibility Status.”

If you have questions regarding this *Alert*, please contact our Community Relations Department at **1-800-495-0086 (press 1 for the English menu, 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.