



September 3, 2009

Dear Stakeholder,

To support recent shifts to community-based service delivery in the Emergency Services Programs (ESP) and elsewhere in the behavioral health continuum of care, as well as related efforts to expedite access to behavioral health services and reduce emergency department (ED) volume and time, the Medical Screening Workgroup has drafted the attached “Community- based Medical Screening Guidelines.” The primary goal of these guidelines is to identify those persons assessed by an ESP who are unlikely to require acute medical evaluation or treatment before accessing inpatient psychiatric services or another appropriate behavioral health level of care, without compromising their safety. We extend our thanks to everyone who has participated in this process to date, many of whom have agreed to be included in the list of workgroup contributors on the attached draft document.

While the Medical Screening Workgroup consisted of representatives from many of the parties who would be involved in implementing these guidelines, we are now disseminating this document to a broader range of stakeholders for your review and recommendations. The success of this effort is largely dependent on collaboration, and we appreciate the opportunity to work together on both the document and related processes.

Your comments and/or suggestions may be sent to MBHP-ESP@valueoptions.com by 5 p.m. on October 9, 2009. We are inviting ***narrative written feedback*** rather than edits to the document, so please send your comments in paragraph form. We will not incorporate “tracked changes” or “red lined” versions of the document itself. Please direct all replies to this letter to ***MBHP-ESP@valueoptions.com***.

Thank you,

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