

PROVIDER BULLETIN No. 11-68

September 29, 2011

TO: Mental Health/Substance Abuse Providers

FROM: Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director 
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care

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RE: Changes to Clinical Criteria for PRTF Services and Submission of PTAs

Effective immediately, clinical criteria will be applied equally to all applications for residential care regardless of the mental health/substance abuse diagnosis of the child. The only exception would be a child with a diagnosis of either developmental disabilities or medical condition with no co-occurring mental health or substance abuse, because these are not covered services in the mental health /substance abuse benefit package.

This means that the medical necessity criteria will be amended to read as follows:

6. The patient's symptoms are not primarily due to any of the following:
 - a. Mental Retardation or a Pervasive Developmental Disorder
 - b. Organic mental disorders, traumatic brain injury or other medical condition
 - c. ~~Conduct Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, or ADHD~~

Effective immediately, referrals to Magellan for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) services must be made by a team. The team must:

1. Include a physician;
2. Have competence in diagnosis and treatment of mental illness (psychiatrist, psychologist, LIMHP); and
3. Have knowledge of the child's situation.

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While conduct disorders will no longer be excluded from the Magellan/Medicaid clinical criteria, there continues to be concern regarding the best practices, in both residential and community based settings, to treat children with these diagnoses. Magellan will be forming a clinical task force of mental health treatment providers to determine what mental health and substance abuse treatment services are appropriate to address the needs of these children and their families. Magellan will be convening this group in the middle of October with the goal of the group providing recommendations to Medicaid by January 2012.

Effective immediately, Pretreatment Assessments (PTAs) will no longer be collected by Magellan. From the superficial review of the PTAs Magellan has collected to date, it is clear that the PTA repository will not serve the need for which it was intended. Medicaid will be convening a Work Group to improve quality of the PTA documentation, as PTAs are the corner stone of an excellent treatment plan. The PTA Work Group will be composed of a cross section of Medicaid providers and will provide recommendations to Medicaid for improving the quality and portability of PTAs. Their report will be due to Medicaid January 2012.

Should you have any questions, please contact Margaret Van Dyke at 402-471-1608.

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