



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

ANDREW C. AGWUNOBI, M.D.
SECRETARY

February 6, 2008

Dear Medicaid Provider:

This letter is to inform you of a change in processing Level II referrals for Preadmission Screening and Resident Review for Mental Illness (PASRR/MI). This change applies to Level II mental illness evaluations and determinations only; the overall PASRR process is not changing.

PASRR is a federal requirement which is designed to prevent inappropriate placements of individuals in nursing facilities. Regardless of payor, all people seeking admission to a nursing facility must be screened for possible mental illness prior to admission. The law also requires residents in a nursing home who have a significant change in their mental status to be referred for a Level II evaluation. This evaluation determines whether: 1) the referred person has a serious mental illness; 2) the nursing facility can provide the level of services needed to treat their illness; and 3) specialized services are needed beyond what the nursing facility can provide.

Level II PASRR screenings for mental illnesses will be carried out by APS Healthcare, effective February 1, 2008. From that date forward, all PASRR / MI Level II referrals must be faxed directly from the Comprehensive Assessment and Review for Long-Term Care Services (CARES) program or Children's Medical Assessment Team (CMAT) (for preadmission screenings) and nursing facilities (for resident reviews) to the APS Healthcare toll free number (866) 677-4776. Hospitals that need to make a Level II referral should continue to send the information to CARES, who will then route them to APS. Referrals for Level II mental illness screenings should no longer be sent to the local DCF Mental Health Program Office.

APS Healthcare, one of the country's leading specialty healthcare companies, was recently awarded a contract with the Department of Children and Families, Mental Health Program Office, to take over the Level II evaluation and determination function. Please note, however, that APS Healthcare is responsible for the Level II process for mental illness only. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities maintains the Level II evaluation responsibility for mental retardation.

APS Healthcare will send further instruction to all providers in January, 2008. APS will provide training and educational materials, online resources, and technical assistance. All PASRR / MI Level II informational materials and forms will be available for download from their website, located at www.apshealthcare.com.



APS Contract for PASRR Level II's

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If you have any questions, please contact Mary Sandler, M.A., Clinical Manager, APS Healthcare. You can reach Ms. Sandler at telephone number (850) 671-3015, extension #8930, or by email at msandler@apshealthcare.com.

Thank you for your cooperation as we move to the new PASRR/MI Level II process.

Sincerely,



Beth Kidder
Chief of Medicaid Services



Aleisa C. McKinlay, JD, MA
Chief of Adult Community Mental Health

cc: Sam Fante

BK/sr