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SUBJECT:

Requirements for Clinic Supervisory Physician Reviews and Reevaluations of Diagnoses, Treatment Plans and Updates

BY:



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Deputy Secretary

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to outpatient drug and alcohol services clinics enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program to provide services in either the Fee-for-Service or the Managed Care delivery systems.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the requirement in 55 Pa. Code § 1223.52(a)(6)(iii) and (a)(7)(ii) (relating to payment conditions for various services) that the clinic supervisory physician review and reevaluation of diagnoses, treatment plans and updates shall be done in the outpatient drug and alcohol clinic.

DISCUSSION:

Providers of outpatient drug and alcohol clinic services have requested that the Department clarify the requirement that the clinic supervisory physician reviews and reevaluations of diagnoses, treatment plans and updates be completed in the clinic. Specifically, they requested clarification of the boundaries for a physician to be “in the clinic.”

Although the Department of Health licenses each outpatient drug and alcohol clinic site separately, these facilities are recognized as part of one “project” if they are operated by the same legal entity or governing body. See 28 Pa. Code § 701.1 (relating to general definitions). Therefore, the Department will consider a physician to be “in the clinic” under 55 Pa. Code § 1223.52(a)(6)(iii) and (a)(7)(ii) when the physician is physically present in a licensed site of the same “project.”

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Richard J. Novak, Bureau of Policy and Program Development, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, Pa 17105.

REGULATION INTERPRETATION:

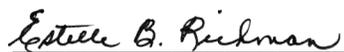
The regulation interpretation is contained in Annex A to this bulletin.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This statement of policy is effective immediately upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

CONTACT PERSON:

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Estelle B. Richman
Secretary of Public Welfare

ANNEX A

STATEMENT OF POLICY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

[55 Pa. Code Chapter 1223]

Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Clinic Services

§ 1223.52a. Requirements for clinic supervisory physician reviews and reevaluations of diagnoses, treatment plans and updates – statement of policy

The Department will consider a physician to be “in the clinic” under 55 Pa. Code § 1223.52(a)(6)(iii) and (a)(7)(ii) (relating to payment conditions for various services) when the physician is physically present in a licensed site of the same “project” as defined in 28 Pa. Code § 701.1 (relating to general definitions).