



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

Pat McCrory
Governor

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Division Director

July 16, 2013

To: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee Members on HHS
Commission for MH/DD/SAS
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Provider Organizations
MH/DD/SAS Professional Organizations and Groups
MH/DD/SAS Stakeholder Organizations and Groups
NC Association of County DSS Directors

From: Dave Richard

**Re: Communication Bulletin # 133
Physician Assistants and Associate Level Licensed Providers**



Physician Assistants

The Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) state plan to allow Physician Assistants (PAs) to directly enroll as Medicaid providers has been approved. The Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) has also approved direct enrollment of PAs for state-funded services. DMH/DD/SAS will communicate directly with the local management entity-managed care organizations (LME-MCOs) regarding the enrollment and billing process. We expect these revisions to DMA Clinical Coverage Policy 8C to post in July or August, and current Policy 8C already reflects this change. This policy will be followed for state-funded services as well. PAs are now eligible to be enrolled as direct-enrolled providers if they choose. For Medicaid, PAs may also continue billing "incident-to" a physician, following the guidance found in the October 2008 Medicaid Bulletin titled, "Modification in Supervision When Practicing "Incident to" a Physician." "Incident -to" a physician billing is not available for state-funded services.

Extension of Coverage for Associate Level Licensed Providers Billing Outpatient Behavioral Health Services through the Local Management Entity-Managed Care Organizations

The coverage of Associate Level licensed providers (with the exception of Licensed Psychological Associates (LPAs) who can directly bill) delivering outpatient behavioral health services as a reimbursable service under Medicaid and State funds and billed through the LME-MCO has been extended to January 1, 2014. DMA and DMH/DD/SAS are working collaboratively on policies and procedures to support direct enrollment of Associate Level licensed professionals and will publish guidance when this process is completed.

Cc: Secretary Aldona Wos, M.D. DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team Kaye Holder
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