



C A L I F O R N I A D E P A R T M E N T O F

Mental Health

1600 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-3551

December 20, 2001

DMH INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 01-10

TO: LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM CHIEFS
LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATORS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
CHAIRPERSONS, LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH BOARDS

SUBJECT: AB 1424, CHAPTER 506, STATUTES OF 2001 REGARDING CHANGES TO THE WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE'S LANTERMAN-PETRIS-SHORT ACT, INSURANCE CODE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

This notice provides information about recent chaptered legislation that is to take effect January 1, 2002. The new statutes broaden the types of information regarding the historical course of a person's mental disorder that must be considered for purposes of determining grave disability or danger to self or others. The information must now include the patient's medical and psychiatric records and information provided by mental health providers, family members and patients.

The new statutes require an agency or facility providing treatment to any person to acquire, if possible, the person's medication history if the person is subject to detention for 72 hours on the basis that he or she is a danger to himself or herself or others or is gravely disabled, or subject to extended periods of detention pursuant to professional evaluations of the person that he or she remains a danger to himself or herself or others or is gravely disabled or has suicidal tendencies.

The statutes also prohibit the use of a person's voluntary or involuntary psychiatric inpatient admission status to be used for the purpose of determining eligibility for claim reimbursement. This is consistent with DMH Information Notice No.: 01-01, clarifying Medi-Cal policy regarding voluntary admissions to psychiatric inpatient hospital services.

In addition, the new statutes add Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT's) to the list of providers who may approve the disclosure of information and records relating to



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services provided to individuals with a mental disorder in instances in which the patient designates persons to whom information or records may be released.

We have enclosed the chaptered legislation for your review. If you have any questions regarding this legislation, please contact Ron Bettencourt at (916) 654-4432.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Wm. DAVID DAWSON
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosures