



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
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June 25, 2009

DMH INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 09-08

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

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS,
AND TREATMENT (EPSDT) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT (PIP) FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2009-2010

REFERENCE: WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE 5777(g)(2)(A)

EARLY AND PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSIS AND
TREATMENT (Title 9, California Code of Regulations (CCR),
Section 1810.215

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION NOTICE:
08-29

This Information Notice is to remind Mental Health Plans (MHPs) of the continuing requirement to have a Statewide Early, Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Performance Improvement Project (PIP) and to provide direction for the second year of the Statewide PIP. As a result of discussions between Department of Mental Health (DMH), the California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) and stakeholders, the second year EPSDT PIP will offer MHPs the option to continue their first year EPSDT PIP using the same roadmap criteria, or the option to choose to expand the study group.

DMH Information Notice 08-29, dated October 6, 2008, required MHPs to implement the Statewide EPSDT PIP (http://www.dmh.ca.gov/DMHDocs/2008_Notices.asp) pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 5777(g)2(A). The goal of the Statewide PIP is to continue to explore and address opportunities to improve the coordination, quality, effectiveness, and/or efficiency of service delivery to children who are receiving EPSDT services.

The study group expansion in the second year of the Statewide PIP may include:

- Lowering the dollar threshold to expand the definition of “high cost user,” to \$2,000 or \$2,500 per month, or
- Adding beneficiaries that meet particular demographic, clinical, or programmatic characteristics of the high cost user group, regardless of their cost at the time.

The second year of a PIP should include progress toward providing additional interventions and include appropriate indicators to measure the impact of those interventions. MHPs are encouraged to identify interventions related to their first year study question by July 1, 2009, and then to determine the impact of the identified interventions by December 31, 2009. The External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) contractor will be reviewing Statewide PIP programs during the 2009-2010 site visits.

MHPs may routinely update their current report to DMH; however, all information must be submitted to DMH no later than December 31, 2009, and again, by June 30, 2010. Reporting must be consistent with the guidelines provided in DMH Information Notice 08-29:

“In order for DMH to track study group participants, MHPs must report all study group participants through an on-line form. To ensure that this information is adequately protected, it is submitted through a secure server. The form can be accessed at the following URL:

<https://poqi1.dmh.ca.gov:8443/lfservlet/PIPEnroll>

The information required for reporting includes the County Code of Record (the two-digit county code for the county initiating the services), the client's Social Security Number (SSN), the County Client Number (CCN), the client's first and last name, gender and date of birth (DOB). The date of the client's inclusion in the study group and, as necessary, the date the client is discontinued from participation in the study group.”

This information will be used by DMH to track the individuals participating in the study group and to report to the legislature by October 1 of each year. MHPs should also ensure that accurate and complete information is submitted to other systems such as the Client Service Information (CSI) system and Short-Doyle Medi-Cal (SD/MC) claiming system.

DMH will continue to meet regularly with the EQRO contractor, MHPs, and stakeholders via bi-monthly conference calls with the Technical Assistance Group to address issues and respond to questions. Technical assistance opportunities will be available and

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information will continue to be posted on the DMH EPSDT PIP website:

http://www.dmh.ca.gov/Services_and_Programs/Medi_Cal/EPSDT_Statewide_PIP.asp.

If you have technical questions regarding this notice, please submit your questions to

EPSDT.PIP@dmh.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

STEPHEN W. MAYBERG, Ph.D.

Director