TO: Primary Care Physicians, Hospital Discharge Specialists

FROM: Jessica Keith, DHHS

RE: Pre-Admission Screening and Diversion for Persons Seeking Admission to Adult Care Homes

As many of you have already learned, The State of North Carolina entered into an agreement with the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) on August 23, 2012. The purpose of this agreement is to assure that persons with mental illness are allowed to reside in their communities in the least restrictive settings of their choice. The agreement is the end product of over a year of negotiations between the State and the USDOJ. The initial action was an action taken by Disability Rights of North Carolina in 2010, and then in a findings letter from USDOJ on July 28, 2011.

A part of this agreement requires that individuals seeking admission to Adult Care Homes (ACHs) first complete a pre-admission screening to identify individuals who may have Severe Mental Illness (SMI) or Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI). The settlement agreement specifically states:

“Beginning January 1, 2013, the State will refine and implement tools and training to ensure that when any individual is being considered for admission to an adult care home, the State shall arrange for a determination, by an independent screener, of whether the individual has SMI.”

To this end, the Department of Health and Human Services has identified the current tool used for screening individuals for nursing home level of care, the PASRR (Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review). This is an on-line tool which is very simple to use and takes very little time to complete, especially if the individual completing the form knows the individual seeking admission. If the screening indicates no SMI, the time can be as little as ten minutes. If there is the indication of SMI, Hewlett Packard (HP), the contract agent of the Division of Medical Assistance which currently oversees the completion of the on-line tool for nursing homes, will conduct further reviews in short order – first a face-to-face review of the individual, and secondly a review by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS). The individual is then referred to an LME-MCO (Local management Entity-Managed Care Organization). The LME-MCO will assist the individual with services if eligible and will help the individual to develop a community housing option plan. However, if an individual who has SMI still wishes to reside in the ACH, that choice will be honored. The purpose of this exercise is to assure that the individual be allowed to make an informed choice as to where she/he will live.

As the person who knows an individual’s medical history best, we anticipate that many primary care physicians will be requested to complete the PASRR for ACH by individuals seeking to live in ACHs. So, we are providing training on-line to explain how to access the tool, and how to fill it out. If you anticipate that someone else in your office would complete the on-line form, we would welcome as many persons to view the training as you’d like.

We have tried to establish a process that, with a minimum of additional administrative effort, will satisfy the requirement of the USDOJ Agreement. For a copy of the settlement agreement, you may contact tpiezzo@nc3cn.org.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us. And thank you for working with us.

Jessica Keith
Special Advisor on ADA
Department of Health and Human Services
Phone: 919-855-4809
In an effort to provide information to PCPs and Discharge Planners regarding the new requirements for the Consolidated Personal Care Policy (PCS) as it relates to Adult Care Homes and Pre-Admission Screening (PASRR), HP (DMA’s fiscal intermediary) has scheduled 4 web based trainings in February.

This is a new requirement for Level I PASRR screening for patients being admitted to Adult Care Homes. Some PCPs are probably familiar with the current PASRR screening for Skilled Nursing Facilities – this is a similar requirement.

Please find the dates of the training listed below. For individual registration and more information – please refer to this link- http://www.ncmust.com/Info . The PCS policy and related information can be found at the following link: http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/pcs/pas.html

**TRAINING DATE and TRAINING METHOD**
02/01/2013 - Virtual Seminar - Web Based Training
02/08/2013 - Virtual Seminar - Web Based Training
02/15/2013 - Virtual Seminar - Web Based Training
02/22/2013 - Virtual Seminar - Web Based Training