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Date: January 30, 2015

To: LME-MCOs

From: Mabel McGlothlen, LME System Performance Team Leader, DMH/DD/SAS, and Kathy Nichols, Lead Waiver Program Manager, Contracts Section, DMA

Subject: Behavioral Health Unmanaged Visits to Restart on State Fiscal Year Versus Calendar Year

The purpose of this article is to notify behavioral health providers that unmanaged visits will reset on July 1, 2015. Behavioral health outpatient services and selected behavioral health enhanced services have a specified number of unmanaged visits that do not require Prior Authorization (PA). *For example, children are allowed 16 unmanaged outpatient visits before PA is required.* Historically, these unmanaged visits for Medicaid and Health Choice beneficiaries reset every calendar year on January 1.

Effective July 1, 2015, behavioral health services with unmanaged visits will restart and new unmanaged visits will be available every July 1 (State Fiscal Year). This applies to Medicaid beneficiaries, Health Choice beneficiaries, legal aliens and children age 0 to 3.

Approved vendors providing PA to populations listed above should end-date their authorizations effective June 30, 2015 to ensure that beneficiaries will receive new unmanaged benefits effective July 1, 2015.

For Medicaid and Health Choice related questions, please contact Bert Bennett at Bert.Bennett@dhhs.nc.gov or [336-946-1003](tel:336-946-1003). For state-funded questions, please contact Mabel McGlothlen at: Mabel.McGlothen@dhhs.nc.gov or [919-715-1294](tel:919-715-1294).

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: <http://jtcommunicationbulletins.ncdhhs.gov/>

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