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LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #J193

Date: April 15, 2016
To: LME-MCOs
From: Kathy Nichols, Behavioral Health Manager, Community Based Services Section, DMA Mabel McGlothlen, LME-MCO System Management Section Chief, DMH/DD/SAS
Subject: Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners

This Joint Communication Bulletin addresses the psychiatric mental health certification requirements for Nurse Practitioners in Clinical Coverage Policy (CCP) 8C. CPP 8C, states:

DMA shall extend enrollment to NPs who are certified in another specialty with two years of documented mental health experience. These NPs shall be enrolled under a sunset clause that requires psychiatric certification by June 30, 2017 and, if this certification is not obtained by that date, the individual will no longer be able to provide behavioral health services under Clinical Coverage Policy 8C.

Proper training for professional staff who treat individuals with mental illness remains a priority for DMA. In response to questions regarding psychiatric certification for Nurse Practitioners under DMA Clinical Coverage Policy 8C and after careful analysis of the Nurse Practitioner workforce within the LME-MCO networks, DMA has decided to create alternative pathways to certification with appropriately defined timelines.

Nurse Practitioners must have a plan to obtain psychiatric mental health certification in order to continue billing Medicaid services under Clinical Coverage Policy 8C. Consideration will also be given for non-certified NP's who have long practiced in behavioral health settings and practice under the supervision of a psychiatrist. Details of this process and updates to CCP 8C will be forthcoming.

There are several resources available for individuals to pursue the psychiatric certification, including:

1. UNC-CH School of Nursing Online

One day per month on campus

Clinical in own community

Post-Master's Certificate

*Tuition assistance of up to \$10,000 may be available to qualifying students.

Website: <http://nursing.unc.edu/academics/master-of-science-in-nursing/psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner/>

2. Vanderbilt University

Online Masters of Science in Nursing

One week per semester

Post-MSN certificate

Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Website: <http://www.nursing.vanderbilt.edu/msn/pmhnp.html>

3. University of South Alabama

Online Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.)

Several days together once per semester

Family Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner

Website: <http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/con/msn/fampsynp.html>

If you have questions, please contact Kelsi Knick at Kelsi.knick@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-855-4288.

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

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