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MCO Communication Bulletin #81

Date: April 11, 2014
To: LME-MCO CEOs
From: Kathy Nichols, Lead Waiver Program Manager, Contracts Section, DMA, and Ureh N. Lekwauwa, M.D., DFAPA, Medical Director/Chief of Clinical Policy, DMH/DD/SAS
Subject: DSM-5

The Fifth Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) was released in May 2013. DHHS will implement DSM-5 coding requirements effective August 1, 2014. The DSM-5 codes will be required for all dates of services beginning August 1, 2014. This timeframe gives clinical professionals additional time to learn the diagnostic codes for service authorization requests.

DSM-5 changes will apply to:

- DMH/DD/SAS and DMA behavioral health services covered by the LME-MCOs; and
- behavioral health services authorized by Value Options and paid by NC Tracks for Health Choice beneficiaries and 0-3 year olds.

Additionally, The ASAM Criteria: Treatment Criteria for Addictive, Substance-Related, and Co-Occurring Conditions, Third Edition was published at the end of 2013.

As of August 1, 2014, all clinical policies, rules, protocols, etc. will be updated to reflect this new manual. The use of ASAM is required for both DMH/DD/SAS and DMA in the determination of levels of care for substance abuse services.

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