NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J379

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To: Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

From: Renee Rader, Assistant Director for Policy and Programs, DMH/DD/SAS
Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid

Subject: Addition of ASAM Requirements for the Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA) and Diagnostic Assessment (DA)

This bulletin informs LME-MCOs and providers about the proposed amendments to Clinical Coverage Policy 8C, Section 7.3.2 (CCA Format) and Clinical Coverage Policy 8A, Attachment D, Diagnostic Assessment (Elements of the Diagnostic Assessment). The amendments will add a requirement that includes the determination of ASAM level of care to assessments of individuals with a substance use disorder (SUD) diagnosis effective in the spring of 2021. This requirement will also be implemented for any Comprehensive Clinical Assessment (CCA) or Diagnostic Assessment (DA) supported by state funds.

The proposed policy change is in preparation for the implementation of the CMS 1115(a) SUD Demonstration Waiver designed to improve access to SUD treatment services for Medicaid beneficiaries. In the approved waiver implementation plan, North Carolina identified the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) guidelines as the evidence-based standards North Carolina will use to determine the appropriate level of care for individuals with substance use disorders. The clinical coverage policies will be amended to add the determination of ASAM level of care to the required elements in the CCA and DA to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries receive appropriate referrals to SUD treatment based on their individual needs.

Upon implementation of the clinical coverage policies**,** all direct enrolled licensed professionals eligible to provide CCAs and DAs must have the knowledge, skills and ability to make an ASAM level of care determination for individuals with a substance use disorder diagnosis. NC Medicaid is aware

that there are licensed professionals who will need ASAM Criteria training to meet this requirement. As a result, NC Medicaid, in coordination with the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, has implemented a training plan to support access to reduced cost ASAM Criteria training. The training plan includes e-Learning modules, live, online two-day ASAM Criteria Skill Building training, continuing education credits, and access to the ASAM Criteria manual (for cost of shipping). For information, please see https://bhs.unc.edu/asam/dashboard.

If you have any questions, please contact Howard Anthony at 919-741-3129 or Howard.Anthony@dhhs.nc.gov.

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cc: Kody Kinsley, Behavioral Health & I/DD
Victor Armstrong, DMH/DD/SAS
Dave Richard, NC Medicaid
Jay Ludlam, NC Medicaid
Helen Wolstenholme, DSOHF
NC Medicaid Leadership Team
DMH/DD/SAS Leadership Team