

# Magellan Compliance Notebook – January, 2016

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Magellan) strives to be proactive and use education as a preventative tool to help ensure our members receive the highest quality of care through you, the provider. The Compliance Department at Magellan is committed to sending monthly e-mails to targeted providers regarding a Compliance-related subject.

*This e-mail communication is specific to your HealthChoices (Pennsylvania Medicaid) Contract with Magellan.*

This month we'd like to share a critical update with contracted BHRS providers regarding Behavioral Specialist Consultant services.

Providers are ultimately responsible for hiring qualified staff persons that meet the minimum expectations per Magellan, Federal & State guidelines. Magellan has recently identified the need to provide clarification for network providers on the minimum educational requirements for staff providing Behavioral Specialist Consultant (BSC) services.

Provider personnel files are monitored by Magellan's Network Department during routine and targeted audits. These HR records must demonstrate clear adherence to any regulatory and MCO-established qualifications. Providers may not be reimbursed for any service rendered by unqualified staff persons which includes full-time and part-time employees; subcontractors; students/ interns (where permitted to render service); and consultants.

Behavioral Specialist Consultants must meet one of the following minimum qualifications which are supported by evidence in the personnel file:

- Licensed Psychologist
- Pennsylvania Licensed Behavioral Specialist (BSL)
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Social Worker (LSW), in addition to documented training in the field of behavioral modification techniques
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), in addition to documented training in the field of behavioral modification techniques
- Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT), in addition to documented training in the field of behavioral modification techniques
- Master's Degree from an accredited university in a mental health discipline including psychology, psychiatric nursing, social work, counseling and marriage & family therapy. To be considered a "mental health discipline", the degree must include at least 12 credit hours in the below behavioral health coursework including:

- Abnormal Psychology
  - Assessment
  - Child/ Human Development
  - Clinical Practicum/ Internship (can account for no more than 3 of the 12 hours)
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
  - Counseling Ethics
  - Crisis Management/ Counseling
  - Grief, Loss and Trauma Counseling
  - Human Behavior
  - Individual, Group and Family Therapy
  - Multicultural Counseling and Therapy
  - Personality Theories
  - Psychodynamic Therapy
  - Psychopathology
  - Psychotherapy Lab
- The individual must also have documented training in the field of behavioral modification techniques

Staff providing Behavioral Specialist Consultant (BSC) services to the Magellan population on the Autistic Spectrum must continue to meet OMHSAS regulations including licensure as a Psychologist, Social Worker, Marriage & Family Therapist or Professional Counselor; or maintain state licensure as a PA BSL.

All Behavioral Specialist Consultant Services provided to Magellan members must be delivered by staff who meet the above qualifications. This will be assessed during routine and targeted audits by Magellan's Network and Compliance Departments. Retractions and/or Corrective Action may be applied as indicated.

At Magellan, we will continue to educate our providers with updated MA Bulletins, Regulations and other pertinent information in order to ensure Compliance.

Thank you for your ongoing hard work and dedication to our members!

**Magellan of Pennsylvania's Compliance Team**

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