

# Magellan Compliance Notebook – March, 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 would like to ensure that Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) providers have received and reviewed a newly released MA Bulletin related to Training and Supervision Requirements for Therapeutic Staff Support (TSS) Workers that Implement Treatment Plans that Include Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). The bulletin goes into effect on April 10, 2016.

The attached bulletin (OMHSAS-16-02) clarifies the minimum training qualifications and supervision requirements for TSS workers that implement a treatment plan that includes ABA if the child or adolescent the TSS worker is serving is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

It is important that TSS workers who implement treatment plans that include ABA receive training in ABA so that they understand the basic principles of ABA and are able to carry out the specific procedures and techniques used in the treatment plans they are implementing. For this reason, the Department is clarifying that, as set forth below, a specified number of the required hours of the training for TSS workers who serve children or adolescents diagnosed with ASD and implement treatment plans that includes ABA must be in ABA.

MA Bulletin 01-01-05 requires new TSS workers to complete a minimum of 15 hours of training prior to working alone with children or adolescents. For new TSS workers who will be implementing a treatment plan that includes ABA, at least 6 of the required 15 hours of training must be in ABA. MA Bulletin 01-01-05 also requires new TSS workers to complete no less than an additional 24 hours of training within the first 6 months of working with children and adolescents. For TSS workers implementing a treatment plan that includes ABA, at least 6 of the required 24 hours must be in ABA.

If a TSS worker who is not a new TSS worker is currently implementing a treatment plan that includes ABA and does not have documented training in ABA, the TSS worker must complete within 6 months of the effective date of this bulletin at least 6 hours of training in ABA. If a TSS worker is not a new TSS worker and is not currently implementing a treatment plan that includes ABA, the TSS worker must complete at least 6 hours of training in ABA prior to implementing a treatment plan that includes ABA.

In terms of ongoing training, MA Bulletin 01-01-05 requires that after the first year of employment all TSS workers receive at least 20 hours of training each year. For TSS workers implementing a treatment plan that includes ABA, at least 6 of the required 20 hours must be in ABA.

All training must be documented as described in the “Record Keeping” section of Bulletin 01-01-05.

Finally, for TSS workers implementing a treatment plan that includes ABA, the weekly supervision required in MA Bulletin 01-01-05 should address the ongoing implementation of ABA interventions in accordance with the child’s or adolescent’s treatment plan.

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

☎ 215-504-3967 | 📠 866-667-7744

[www.magellanofpa.com](http://www.magellanofpa.com)

