



Magellan Compliance Notebook

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 providers are familiar with HB 478: Outpatient Psychiatric Oversight Act.

On 5/31/18, Governor Wolf signed into law HB 478 – the Outpatient Psychiatric Oversight Act – now Act 25 of 2018. The law became effective after 60 days, or on 7/30/18.

The law requires an outpatient psychiatric clinic to have a psychiatrist on site for two (2) hours of psychiatric time per week for each full-time equivalent (thirty-seven and one-half hours per week) treatment staff member employed by the outpatient psychiatric clinic. Act 25 of 2018 permits 50 percent of the required onsite psychiatric time to be provided by an advanced practice professional specializing in behavioral health with prescriptive authority in this Commonwealth. Telepsychiatry provided by a psychiatrist that is not on site with prescriptive authority in the Commonwealth may be utilized with a service description approved by the Department of Human Services (DHS) but shall not be included in the required psychiatric time. DHS is required to promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Please note that “Advanced Practice Professional” is defined as: A registered, licensed, or certified health care practitioner who has gained additional specialized knowledge, skills, and experience through a program of study in that specialty. A person who: (I) holds a current Pennsylvania license as a certified registered nurse practitioner with a mental health certification; or (II) obtains a mental health certification within two years of being hired by a psychiatric outpatient clinic or within two years of the effective date of this section, whichever is later; or (I) holds a current Pennsylvania license as a physician assistant with a mental health certification; or (II) obtains a mental health certification within two years of being hired by a psychiatric outpatient clinic or within two years of the effective date of this section, whichever is later.

At Magellan, we will continue to educate our providers with updated MA Bulletins, Regulations and other pertinent information in order to ensure Compliance. Although providers are ultimately responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable regulations, we proactively engage providers on an ongoing basis to make sure they are aware of compliance related requirements and expectations. Medicaid Program Integrity is truly a collaborative effort between our providers, county customers, Magellan, BPI and other oversight agencies. The monthly e-mail blast topics are generated from audit results and trends; however, are also sent in response to recent Magellan policy updates; newly released or relevant MA Bulletins and Policy Clarifications; or Regulation changes. The intention is to afford our providers with as many resources as possible to combat FWA and reduce overpayments.

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

Magellan of Pennsylvania's Compliance Team

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