



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING


RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 11, 2018

TO: Executive Directors of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)
Executive Directors of Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs)
Chief Financial Officers of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)
Chief Financial Officers of Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs)

FROM: Jeffery L Wieferrich M.A., LLP 
Acting Director
Bureau of Community Based Services

SUBJECT: Clarification on the September 14, 2018 memo regarding Inclusion of Physician Assistant to Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) as a provider of psychiatric services to ACT teams and ACT consumers effective October 1, 2018

This memo is being sent to provide clarification on the September 14, 2018 memo regarding Inclusion of Physician Assistant to Assertive Community Treatment as a provider of psychiatric services to ACT teams and ACT consumers effective October 1, 2018.

A licensed physician's assistant is permitted to perform clinical tasks as a provider of psychiatric services for ACT teams as permitted by a legally compliant practice agreement with the participating ACT team physician. If the ACT team includes a physician's assistant, he/she may see consumers for a portion of the consumer's psychiatric needs, in close coordination with the ACT team's physician; additionally, the ACT team physician will continue ACT team involvement that includes minimally attending a daily ACT team meeting one to two times each month, with the ACT physician's assistant attending at least weekly.

An ACT physician's assistant must be qualified by education, training, or experience to furnish psychiatric services and the ACT physician who has entered into a practice agreement or is supervising an ACT physician assistant must also be qualified to furnish psychiatric services. Both the ACT physician and the ACT physician's assistant must each hold current Michigan licenses (physician and physician assistant, respectively), a controlled substances license, and a DEA registration.

The ACT physician's assistant is not counted in the staff to consumer ratio, and the time allocated to perform clinical tasks associated with provision of ACT services remains unchanged. The ACT physician and ACT physician assistant time may be calculated together. The consultative practice agreement between the ACT physician and ACT physician's assistant includes coordination of clinical tasks to meet the needs of the ACT team.

Questions or concerns regarding ACT service provision should be directed to Alyson Rush via telephone at 517-335-0250 or via email at RushA@michigan.gov.

cc: Brenda Stoneburner
John Duvendeck
Alyson Rush