



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 10, 2022

**TO:** Executive Directors of Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP)  
Executive Directors of Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSP)

**FROM:** Jeffery L. Wieferich, M.A., LLP *JW*  
Director  
Bureau of Community Based Services  
Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration  
(BPHASA)

**SUBJECT:** Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Training Flexibility

At the June 27, 2022, Credentialing and Training Flexibilities workgroup, requests for flexibility in the requirement for ACT-specific annual training and what constitutes acceptable training was discussed. The requests were identified to address current workforce challenges.

This is to confirm the following:

- **Request 1:** Allow substitute trainings for required ACT Training. Examples: Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Cognitive Enhancement Therapy, Suicide Risk Assessment, and Crisis Management using online platforms.
  - **Response:** Trainings that would be appropriate to fulfill individual professional development and needs within the ACT Team will be acceptable. Such training may be motivational interviewing, links between physical and behavioral health, supported employment, co-occurring disorder, crisis management, suicide risk assessment, etc. Courses that are appropriate for overall ACT implementation for the team and meet the needs of individual team members will be acceptable. Professional development and fulfillment of this requirement will be monitored and documented by the supervisor.
- **Request 2:** Consider deferring the annual ACT training to every other year in order to bill the ACT code.

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- **Response:** As a two-year pilot, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will allow completion of *ACT 101 Required Material Before Attending Live Course* virtual course on Improving MI Practices (IMP) on an annual basis to fulfill this requirement for ACT team members. This will provide a reminder of core components of ACT service provision, can be completed at any time, and provide one hour of continuing education unit (CEU). This exception cannot be implemented for two consecutive years per person. It will be the responsibility of team lead or supervisor to assure completion.

All initial training of ACT staff must still occur within six months of hire and includes obtaining basic knowledge of ACT programs and principles acquired through participation in MDHHS-approved ACT-specific initial training.

If you have questions or need further clarification, please contact Brenda Stoneburner, M.A., LPC, Manager, Community Practices and Innovation Section at [Stoneburnerb@michigan.gov](mailto:Stoneburnerb@michigan.gov).

c: Belinda Hawks  
Brenda Stoneburner