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LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #162

Date: September 25, 2015

To: LME-MCOs

From: Kathy Nichols, Clinical Program Manager, Behavioral Health Section, DMA and Mabel McGlothlen, IDD, TBI, and System Performance Section Chief, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: No Age Range Cap on Assertive Community Treatment

This bulletin informs the LME-MCOs that there is not an age cap on adult enhanced Medicaid services. As long as medical necessity and other qualifying eligibility criteria are met, a beneficiary can continue to receive adult enhanced Medicaid funded services, regardless of their age.

An error was made in the recently posted stand-alone Clinical Coverage Policy 8A-1 for Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). In section 2.1.2, under specific Medicaid eligibility requirements, it notes that a beneficiary is eligible 18 through 64 years of age. However, in section 3.2.1 under specific criteria covered by both Medicaid and NCHC, it notes that a beneficiary is eligible 18 years of age and older. The intent of CCP 8A-1 is to cover a beneficiary 18 years of age and older as long as they meet medical necessity and the required eligibility criteria.

Medicaid is in the process of updating this section of policy to correctly reflect eligibility for beneficiaries 18 years of age and older. In the interim, LME-MCOs continue to have the flexibility to be less restrictive than policy, and it is recommended that beneficiaries over 64 years of age who are currently authorized for ACT services, continue to receive the services.

If you have questions, please contact Kelsi Knick at 919-855-4288 or at Kelsi.knick@dhhs.nc.gov.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: <http://jtcommunicationbulletins.ncdhhs.gov/>

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