

Effective Date: 11/2/2009; 7/29/2004

Revised Date:

Review Date:

North Sound Mental Health Administration

Section 1500 – Clinical: Clinical Practice Guidelines

Authorizing Source: DSHS Contract

Cancels:

See Also:

Providers are required to have a policy “consistent with” this policy

Responsible Staff: Quality Manager

Approved by: Executive Director

Signature:

Date: 2/3/2010

POLICY #1508.00

SUBJECT: CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

To define the requirements, development, and use of clinical practice guidelines for clinical decision-making.

POLICY

1. The North Sound Mental Health Administration (NSMHA) will ensure, through its contracts, that each provider contracted within the network adopts and adheres to the NSMHA clinical practice guidelines approved by the NSMHA Board of Directors. Clinical practice guidelines will be compliant with all state and Federal standards and requirements. Providers will utilize these practice guidelines as a training and supervision tool for direct clinical staff in accordance with their contracts and the Regional Training Plan. NSMHA shall ensure adherence to this requirement through review of personnel charts during administrative audits. Decisions for utilization management, enrollee education, coverage of services and other areas to which the guidelines apply will be consistent with the guidelines.

PROCEDURES

1. NSMHA will develop clinical practice guidelines through the collaborative processes of the Quality Management system and present them to the Advisory Board and Board of Directors for approval.
2. Though they are not intended as a “standard of care”, these guidelines will be based on valid and reliable clinical evidence and a consensus of health care professionals in mental health, such as the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP).
3. The Clinical Guidelines will consider the needs of NSMHA’s enrollees and will be adopted in consultation with our providers.
4. As often as possible, the clinical guidelines will encompass internet links to APA and AACAP’s accepted and published clinical practice guidelines, which are self-updating. Guidelines will be reviewed periodically to ensure their ongoing compliance with requirements and clinical relevance.
5. NSMHA will disseminate the guidelines to all affected providers upon completion and as revised and, upon request, to enrollees and potential enrollees, as well as making them available on the NSMHA website at www.nsmha.org. Consumers requesting printed copies of the guidelines will be directed to the NSMHA Office of Consumer Affairs for assistance in fulfilling their request.
6. Provider compliance with NSMHA clinical practice guidelines will be ensured by inclusion of this requirement in provider contracts and through ongoing oversight and monitoring to core elements of each guideline, as appropriate, during utilization review, administrative and clinical audits.

ATTACHMENTS

None