



**Connecticut Department of Social Services
Medical Assistance Program
Provider Bulletin**

PB 2005-40

September 2005

TO: Psychiatrists, Psychiatrist Groups, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Groups, Psychologists, Psychologist Groups and Managed Care Organizations

SUBJECT: New Behavioral Health Partnership

Pursuant to Public Act 05-280, this bulletin provides important information about a new initiative taking place between the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for the development and implementation of an integrated behavioral health services system for HUSKY A and HUSKY B members and for other children served by DCF. This initiative is called the Behavioral Health Partnership (BHP) and it will begin January 1, 2006.

The Behavioral Health Partnership seeks to increase access to quality behavioral health services through: (1) expansion of individualized, family-centered, community-based services; (2) maximization of federal revenue to fund behavioral health services; (3) reduction in the unnecessary use of institutional and residential services for children; (4) improved administrative oversight and efficiencies; and (5) monitoring of individual outcomes and provider performance.

Beginning January 1, 2006, an administrative services organization (ASO) under contract to DSS and DCF will authorize and manage the behavioral health services of clients under the BHP. The Managed Care Organizations, or their subcontractors, will no longer manage or pay claims for behavioral health services for dates of service on or after January 1, 2006. Behavioral health services will instead be managed by the ASO. Electronic Data Services (EDS) will process behavioral health claims for BHP clients.

Providers that wish to be reimbursed for behavioral health services under the BHP must be enrolled with DSS as a Connecticut Medical Assistance Program provider. Those providers who currently can be paid directly by EDS for services to Connecticut Medicaid clients are already Connecticut Medical Assistance Program providers and do not need to take any action at this time. Other providers who wish to enroll as a Connecticut Medical Assistance Program provider should obtain an enrollment application by contacting the EDS Provider Assistance Center at the numbers listed below or by writing to: EDS, Provider Enrollment Unit, P.O. Box 5007, Hartford, CT 06104.

The Department urges those providers that are currently not enrolled as a Connecticut Medical Assistance Program provider to obtain an application as soon as possible so that enrollment processing will not be delayed.



Fee schedules and rates are being developed for services provided under the BHP. These fee schedules and rates will be different than the fee schedules and rates for non-HUSKY clients under Medicaid. Reimbursement under the BHP will be similar to that provided by the Managed Care Organizations. Draft fee schedules for independent practitioners under the Behavioral Health Partnership are available on the Department's home page at www.DSS.state.ct.us. Services and reimbursement for non-BHP clients under Medicaid will remain unchanged.

If you have questions about enrollment in the Behavioral Health Partnership you may call Paul Piccione, Ph.D. at 860-424-5160.

In the coming months, the Department will continue to provide additional and more detailed information concerning the implementation of the Behavioral Health Partnership.

Managed Care Organizations are requested to forward this bulletin to all network-only providers.

This bulletin and other program information can be found at www.ctmedicalprogram.com. Questions regarding this bulletin may be directed to the EDS Provider Assistance Center - Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:

In-state toll free **800-842-8440** or
Out-of-state or in the
Local New Britain, CT area ... **860-832-9259**

EDS
PO Box 2991
Hartford, CT 06104

