

Memorandum

To: All HealthChoices Providers
From: Sheryl M. Swanson, MBA, Director of Provider Network Development
Date: February 6, 2015
Subject: AD 15 101 Behavioral Health Screening Programs

Please be aware that PerformCare provides two behavioral health screening programs which are based on current evidence based research and/or best practice guidelines. Currently, PerformCare provides two screening programs related to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Bipolar Disorder and Substance Use.

The Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder screening program assists parents/guardians in identifying age appropriate behaviors in children, as well as raises the awareness of symptoms and behaviors seen in children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. This program identifies members turning six years old and supplies the parent/guardian with an educational newsletter and a Vanderbilt screening tool to complete. The overarching goal of the program is to increase the likelihood of a professional evaluation of a child who may be at risk for ADHD thereby, improving the chances of a good outcome due to early treatment.

The Bipolar Disorder/Substance use screening program is designed to identify substance use with Members who are diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The Members at greatest risk are those Members who are in the transitional age group (18-24years) because studies note a sharp decline in treatment during this stage of life which places them at higher risk for persistent symptoms and functional impairment. Young adults who do seek treatment may be more reluctant to inform their Clinician of illicit drug use because of stigma or legal ramifications. Toward this end, this screening program offers a window of opportunity to educate the transitional age group on the term comorbidity, what addiction looks like, the significance that substances has on their mood, and the opportunity to screen for addiction. A simple 5 question screening tool is provided with scoring directions. The overarching goal of this project is to increase the rate of Members seeking a professional evaluation for substance use in order to improve treatment outcome.

The screening programs are also reviewed on our website at <http://pa.performcare.org/members/health-wellness/prevention.aspx>. For additional information about these screening programs please contact Bonnie Clark RN M. Ed., Quality Improvement Project Manager at 717-671-6528.

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