

November 3, 2008

PHYSICIANS

MEDICAID BULLETIN

TO: Psychiatrists and Physicians

SUBJECT: Clarification of Services Provided by an Allied Professional under Physician Supervision

This bulletin is being issued to clarify the bulletin dated August 5, 2008, titled, Psychiatric and Counseling Services Revision. The revision clearly defines the role of the physician and allied professional, as well as the circumstances in which counseling services are covered.

In Section Two (2) of the Physician, Laboratories, and Other Medical Professionals Manual titled Psychiatric and Counseling Services, subtitled Providers Eligible to Bill for Services, the agency clearly defines Direct Supervision when an Allied Professional is rendering services. The definition states:

“Direct supervision in the physician’s office, group practice, or clinic setting means that the physician must be present in the office throughout the time the allied professional is providing the service and immediately available to provide assistance and direction throughout the time the paraprofessional is performing services. Direct supervision does not mean the physician must be in the same room while paraprofessional is providing services. The availability of the physician by telephone or the presence of the physician somewhere in the institution does not constitute direct supervision.”

This definition is derived via guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and more closely outlines the agency’s intent for this program.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) understands that this model of direct supervision is not the norm in some practices. Therefore, in an effort to provide continuity of care for our beneficiaries and to provide an opportunity for our providers to come into compliance, we will temporarily suspend this requirement.

The suspension will be from the date of the original bulletin (**August 5, 2008**) until **June 30, 2009**. During the interim, providers are encouraged to review their current practices and make the necessary changes to become compliant.

If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact your Program Manager at (803) 898-2660. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

/s/

Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mgws

Note: To sign up for Electronic Funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to <http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hipaa/index.asp> and select "Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)" for instructions.