



June 25, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Penn Behavioral Health has made significant changes to the mental health and substance abuse benefits that we provide to our members. These changes are a result of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity Act of 2008 which mandates mental health benefits and financial responsibilities of members are **no more restrictive** than in the medical plan. The benefit year at Penn Behavioral Health begins July 1, 2010.

Key changes to the benefit include:

- UPHS and University of Pennsylvania members will have unlimited outpatient sessions
- UPHS members will have no copay for outpatient sessions
- University of Pennsylvania members will have a \$30 copay for outpatient sessions
- All precertifications will be the responsibility of the provider. As a result of parity, providers are responsible for precertifying all care above the outpatient level (including but not limited to intensive outpatient, partial hospital, inpatient hospitalization).

For individuals currently in treatment at your practice, we will verify the benefits as of July 1, 2010. Going forward, providers are instructed to call Penn Behavioral Health to confirm members' benefits.

Access to Employee Assistance Program benefits (EAP) continues to require preauthorization. All claims submissions for the EAP services will require this authorization number. Please contact us to facilitate a transfer from EAP to mental health benefits and to confirm members' benefits.

Please see the attached benefit tables for a detailed description of the benefits.

Please go to our website at pennbehavioralhealth.org (you can copy the URL), go to the provider section at the top navigation bar, and click on Provider Guidelines for more information regarding updated changes to the procedures.

As always, we are extremely thankful for your consistent quality, professionalism, and partnership with us as we together work through these legislative changes to all health care procedures.

Sincerely,

The Directors at PENN Behavioral Health