

Bulletin Number: MSA 07-26

Distribution: Ambulance, Family Planning Clinics, FQHCs, Hospice, Hospitals, Local Health Departments, Medicaid Health Plans, Mental Health/Substance Abuse, MIHP, Practitioners, RHCs, School Based Services, and Tribal Health Centers

Issued: May 15, 2007

Subject: Social Worker Licensure

Effective: Upon Receipt

Programs Affected: Medicaid, CSHCS, MOMS

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers of policy updates to comply with Public Act 61 of 2004 which requires social workers to be licensed by the State of Michigan.

Masters and Bachelors prepared social workers have previously been certified or registered. In compliance with PA 61 of 2004, Michigan Department of Community Health now requires social workers to be licensed by the State of Michigan to provide services to Medicaid beneficiaries.

Licensure Requirements for Social Workers

Public Act 61 of 2004 defines a social worker as, "the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques to counseling or to helping an individual, family, group or community to enhance or restore the capacity for social functioning, and/or provide, obtain, or improve tangible social and health services."

The Bureau of Health Professions, Licensing Division for the State of Michigan issued a letter noting that as of July 1, 2005, "The bachelor and master social worker will change from a registration to a license." This means that only the individuals who are licensed can call themselves social workers and that the tasks defined by the public health code as social work must be performed by licensed social workers.

The Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual will be updated. The words "certified" or "registered" social worker will be removed and replaced with "licensed".

Further information regarding social work and licensing can be found on the Michigan Department of Community Health website at www.michigan.gov/mdch >> Click on Health Systems & Health Profession Licensing >> Licensing for Health Care Professionals >> Social Worker.

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information has been incorporated into the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Community Health, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mail at ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Providers may phone toll-free 1-800-292-2550.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Reinhart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Paul Reinhart, Director
Medical Services Administration