CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR MEDICAID SERVICES

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TO: Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) – *Provider Type 30 / Provider Letter #A-92*
Federally Qualified Health Care Centers (FQHC) – *Provider Type 31 / Provider Letter #A-378*
Primary Care Centers (PCC) – *Provider Type 31 /Provider Letter #A-378*
Rural Health Care Centers (RHC) – *Provider Type 35 / Provider Letter #A-223*

RE: Substance Abuse Services Provided through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program

This communication is being provided to clarify that substance abuse services for children under the age of 21 are covered under the EPSDT program. Providers may bill for substance abuse services with a primary diagnosis for children under the age of 21 who are enrolled in the Medicaid program or the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Medicaid Expansion Program (KCHIP).

EPSDT is a federally mandated program for Medicaid eligible children under the age of 21 and is defined in 42 USC 1396d. EPDST services include the following components:

- Screening – routine physical (well child or well-baby check) at appropriate intervals as recommended by the AAP with the components recommended by the AAP for the age.

- Diagnosis and Treatment – services required as a result of a screening which are not covered or have exceeded benefit limits implemented by the traditional Medicaid Program.

Medically necessary services for children under the age of 21 that are not covered under the Medicaid state plan or have exceeded limitations outlined in the state plan are referred to as EPSDT Special Services. All EPSDT Special Services require prior authorization and must be performed by a provider enrolled in the EPSDT Special Services Program.

Substance abuse services are an example of benefits under the EPSDT Special Services program. Currently, substance abuse services are not a covered benefit in the Medicaid state plan. However, substance abuse services are provided to Medicaid eligible pregnant women as outlined in 907 KAR 3:110. In addition, children under the age of 21 who are enrolled in the Medicaid and the KCHIP Medicaid Expansion program can receive substance abuse services through the EPSDT Special Services program, even if substance abuse is the primary diagnosis.

In order to be reimbursed for substance abuse services as a primary diagnosis for children under the age of 21, the provider must be enrolled in the EPSDT program and must obtain prior authorization for the services. Managed Care Organizations are responsible for ensuring children enrolled in their programs have access to and receive EPSDT screenings and Special Services and may have different prior authorization criteria for EPSDT Special Services.

If you have specific questions related to EPSDT Special Services for children in your care, you should contact the appropriate Managed Care Organization in which a member is enrolled. Or, if the child is enrolled in fee for service Medicaid, you may call (502) 564-6890.

I hope you find the attached information useful in the provision of services aimed at improving the health of Kentucky's children.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Kissner
Commissioner

cc: Mark Carter, CEO - Passport
Mario Lopez , CEO - Humana
Michael Murphy, CEO - Coventry Cares
Jean Rush, CEO - KY Spirit
Michael A. Minor, CEO - WellCare

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