

**Western Highlands Network  
Communication Bulletin # 39  
June 6, 2006**

**GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR USE OF DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT**

State Funded (IPRS) Services:

- Consumers who were receiving IPRS funded services before 3-20-2006 do not require a Diagnostic Assessment, and WHN will not authorize this service. WHN may request and authorize a Diagnostic Assessment as part of the Utilization Review process.
- New consumers who began to receive IPRS funded services on or after 3-20-2006 will need a Diagnostic Assessment to receive Enhanced Benefits.
- WHN requires that the Diagnostic Assessment include evaluation for and initiation of medication during the Diagnostic Assessment process. For consumers who are likely to need medication as part of their treatment regimen, the Diagnostic Assessment must include evaluation by a MD, PA, or NP. WHN will not pay for a Diagnostic Assessment that includes an evaluation by a PhD and then a second evaluation (90801) a short time later by a MD, PA, or NP for medication, except in unusual circumstances where there is compelling clinical justification.

Medicaid Funded Services:

- Consumers who were receiving Medicaid services before 3-20-2006 do not require an immediate Diagnostic Assessment; however, a Diagnostic Assessment is required during the month of their birthday.
- New consumers who have Medicaid must have a Diagnostic Assessment to receive enhanced benefits.

Consumers with Private Insurance:

Consumers with private insurance who began to receive services on or after 3-20-2006 do require a Diagnostic Assessment to receive IPRS funded Enhanced Benefits. Insurance benefits, rather than IPRS funds, should be used to pay for the Diagnostic Assessment.

**SPLIT CARE FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT**

During the initial phase of treatment, Western Highlands does not consider splitting Community Support services and the Diagnostic Assessment between two different provider agencies to be best practice. Ideally the Diagnostic Assessment will be done by the same agency that provides Community Support as such practice will minimize communication problems between providers and confusion for the consumer.

We understand that during the initial period of implementing these new service definitions such split care may be necessary where a Community Support provider arranges for another provider to do the Diagnostic Assessment. What follows are the implementation guidelines:

Best practice:

- The Diagnostic Assessment and Community Support are provided by the same agency at the same location.

Next best practice:

- Clinical communication errors between the Community Support and Diagnostic Assessment providers and confusion for the consumer will be minimized when the Community Support provider is present during the Diagnostic Assessment appointment(s).
- When the Community Support provider is not endorsed to do the Diagnostic Assessment, the Diagnostic Assessment may be done at the Community Support provider's office where the Community Support provider must be available to all of the evaluating professionals during the Diagnostic Assessment process.
- When the Community Support provider is not endorsed to do the Diagnostic Assessment and the Diagnostic Assessment cannot be done at the Community Support provider's office, the Community Support provider must accompany the consumer to the Diagnostic Assessment provider's office, and be available to all of the evaluating professionals during the Diagnostic Assessment process.

Procedures for Community Support providers to request authorization for a Diagnostic Assessment by a different provider endorsed for Diagnostic Assessment:

Community Support provider is not endorsed for Diagnostic Assessment, and so enters into an arrangement with another provider who is endorsed for the Diagnostic Assessment.

Faxed – “no wrong door” – Screenings:

- Community Support provider faxes in Access Screening and Access SAR requesting Community Support for themselves and identifies their Diagnostic Assessment provider ON THE SAR.
- The Start Date for both services should be the same date.

Telephone Screenings done by WHN Access:

- Community Support provider sends in an Access SAR (with Start Date) requesting Diagnostic Assessment for the identified Diagnostic Assessment provider.