

Provisionally Licensed and Non-Licensed Substance Abuse Counseling Professionals

This communication bulletin provides Western Highlands network providers guidance for provisionally licensed “incident to”, provisionally licensed continuation and non-licensed substance abuse counseling professional authorization and reimbursement.

1. Provisionally Licensed “Incident To”: Effective with dates of service July 1, 2008, Western Highlands will accept behavioral health services provided by a provisionally licensed professional in a physician’s office “incident to” a physician rules and requirements as defined in NC Department of Health and Human Service, *Implementation Update #44*.

a. Medicaid Funded Consumer Authorization and Reimbursement: Providers must seek Medicaid funded prior-authorization from ValueOptions. Providers must seek Medicaid reimbursement through the Division of Medical Assistance. Western Highland will deny payment. Also, see update for specific billing requirements.

b. State Funded Consumer Authorization and Reimbursement: Provider must obtain State funded prior-authorization from Western Highlands. The physician must be registered with Western Highlands and claims presented with the physician’s national provider identification.

2. Provisionally Licensed Continuation:

Western Highlands will extend the acceptance of provisionally licensed professional Medicaid and State funded reimbursement beyond June 30, 2008.

a. Medicaid Funded Consumer Authorization and Reimbursement: Providers must seek Medicaid funded prior-authorization from ValueOptions. Provider must seek Medicaid reimbursement through Western Highlands. Providers must present claims with the national provider identification number associated with their Western Highlands’ provider identification number as the rendering/attending and service facility location.

b. State Funded Consumer Authorization and Reimbursement: Providers must seek prior-authorization from Western Highlands. Providers must present claims to Western Highlands with the national provider identification number associated with their Western Highlands provider identification number as the rendering/attending and service facility location.

3. Non-Licensed Substance Abuse Counseling Professionals:

Western Highlands accepts the State policy expressed in the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Communication Bulletin #91, and Attachments A/B. This policy is supported with State funds for target population consumers.

a. Medicaid Funded Consumer Authorization and Reimbursement: This policy does **NOT** support Medicaid consumers.

b. State Funded Consumer Authorization and Reimbursement: These services require Western Highland's prior-authorization. See the communication bulletin for designate provider credentials, procedure codes, and reimbursement rates. Providers must present claims to Western Highlands with the national provider identification number associated with their Western Highlands provider identification number as the rendering/attending and service facility location.