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North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC

Section 1500 – Clinical: Clinical Practice Guidelines

Authorizing Source: HCA Contract

Approved by: Executive Director

Date: 5/7/2024

Signature:

POLICY # 1508.00

SUBJECT: CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

To outline North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (BH-ASO) practice guidelines to enhance the quality of care and service delivery.

DEFINITIONS

Evidence-Based Practice means a program or practice that has been tested where the weight of the evidence from review demonstrates sustained improvements in at least one outcome. “Evidence-based” also means a program or practice that can be implemented with a set of procedures to allow successful replication in Washington and, when possible, is determined to be cost-beneficial.

Guidelines means a set of statements used to guide a course of action. A guideline streamlines utilization management decision-making processes according to a set routine or sound evidence-based clinical practice.

POLICY

North Sound BH-ASO encourages network providers to utilize the North Sound BH-ASO clinical practice guidelines. Clinical practice guidelines will be compliant with all State and Federal standards and requirements and include best and promising clinical practices.

PROCEDURES

1. North Sound BH-ASO will, under the oversight of its Medical Director, maintain clinical practice guidelines known to be effective in improving outcomes. Practice guidelines shall be based on the following:
 - a. Valid and reliable clinical scientific evidence;
 - b. In the absence of scientific evidence, professional standards; or
 - c. In the absence of scientific evidence and professional standards, a consensus of Health Care Professionals in the particular field.
2. North Sound BH-ASO will maintain guidelines that develop or promote evidence-based clinical practice guidelines from recognized health organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association (APA) or the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP), National Institute of Health Centers, or Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
3. If North Sound BH-ASO’s guidelines do not fully represent priority populations or targeted services delivered by a BHA the BHA must participate in the development of guidelines that:
 - a. Consider the needs of Individuals and support Individual and family involvement in care plans;
 - b. Be implemented in concert with the ethnic, cultural and linguistic characteristics of its

Individuals;

- c. Be adopted in consultation with contracting Behavioral Health Professionals within the state of Washington;
 - d. Be reviewed and updated at least every two (2) years and more often if national guidelines change during that time to ensure their ongoing compliance with requirements and clinical relevance;
 - i. These reviews will be under the oversight of the BH-ASO Medical Director.
 - ii. As often as possible, the clinical guidelines will encompass internet links to APA and AACAP's accepted and published clinical practice guidelines, which are self-updating.
4. North Sound BH-ASO guidelines will be disseminated to our behavioral health provider network (including GFS and FBG providers), through policies notification and trainings, North Sound BH-ASO's Supplemental Provider Guide (SPG), and, upon request, to providing a copy to any individual request.
 5. The North Sound BH-ASO Medical Director will participate in the evaluation of emerging technologies for the treatment of behavioral health conditions and related decisions. North Sound BH-ASO will also have a Child or Adolescent Psychiatrist available for consultation related to other emerging technologies for the treatment of behavioral health conditions in children and youth.

ATTACHMENTS

1508.01 Practice Guideline Elements