

**ALERT #165**

**Date: November 24, 2015**

## **MBHP ADOPTS FOUR CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

*The following information should be noted immediately by your chief executive officer, chief medical officer, chief operating officer, chief financial officer, program director, quality management director, compliance officer, billing director, and staff.*

The Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) has adopted, effective immediately, four clinical practice guidelines relevant to its population. These guidelines are from nationally recognized sources for behavioral health disorders. These guidelines are not intended to replace clinical judgment, but are designed to assist contracted practitioners in making decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances.

Prior to the adoption and dissemination of each guideline, the relevant scientific literature is reviewed by a multidisciplinary team that includes board-certified psychiatrists, a pediatrician, and an internist. MBHP reviews and approves clinical practice guidelines at least every two years and updates them as needed. As part of MBHP's routine monitoring of adherence to generally accepted standard clinical practice, MBHP will audit annually at least two important criteria contained within the four guidelines listed below to assess adherence to the guidelines.

### **MBHP Clinical Practice Guidelines**

**\*\*New for 2015\*\***

#### **Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Depressive Disorders**

MBHP has adopted the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry guideline titled *Practice Parameter for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Depressive Disorders*. For more information and to access this guideline, please visit:

[http://www.jaacap.com/article/S0890-8567\(09\)62053-0/pdf](http://www.jaacap.com/article/S0890-8567(09)62053-0/pdf).

#### **Buprenorphine (Suboxone) in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction**

MBHP has adopted the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) guideline titled *Treatment Improvement Process (TIP) 40: Use of Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction*. For more information and to access this guideline, please visit:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/n/tip40/pdf>.

**\*\*Continuing Guidelines\*\***

#### **Major Depression**

MBHP has adopted the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) guideline titled *Treatment of Patients with Major Depressive Disorder* for the assessment and treatment of major depression. For more information and to access this guideline, please visit: <http://psychiatryonline.org/guidelines.aspx>.

## **Opioid-Related Disorders**

MBHP has adopted the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) guideline titled *Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) 43: Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction in Opioid Treatment Programs*. For more information and to access this guideline, please visit: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64164/pdf/TOC.pdf>.

MBHP asks providers to consider including these guidelines among their scientifically based reference materials for clinical staff. MBHP also asks providers and their clinicians to consider these guidelines whenever they think the guidelines may promote positive outcomes for clients. If you are unable to access them online, please contact MBHP's Quality Department at 1-800-495-0086, and we will provide you with a paper copy.

If you have questions regarding this *Alert*, please contact our Community Relations Department at **1-800-495-0086 (press 1 for the English menu or 2 for the Spanish menu, then 3 then 1 to skip prompts)**, Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.