

LAKESHORE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ALLIANCE
Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County
Community Mental Health of Muskegon County
Lakeshore Coordinating Council for Substance Abuse Services

POLICY
No. 20-036

Prepared by:	Effective:	May 23, 2003
Judith Kell, Compliance Review Supervisor	Revised:	November 21, 2008
Approved by:	Subject:	Practice Guidelines

John North, Director

I. POLICY:

Each affiliate of the Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance will adopt, develop and implement practices guidelines when there are nationally accepted, or mutually agreed-upon by the Michigan Department of Community Health and the LBHA, clinical standards, practice-based evidence, evidence-based practices, best practices and promising practices that are relevant to the individuals served by the affiliates.

II. PURPOSE:

To ensure quality of care through adoption of Practice Guidelines which:

- are based on valid and reliable clinical evidence or a consensus of health care professionals in the particular field (direct and contract);
- consider the needs of members;
- have included the consultation with contracting health professionals;
- are reviewed and updated periodically;
- are disseminated to all affected providers and upon request to members and potential members;
- serve as a basis for decisions for utilization management, coverage of services, enrollee education and other areas, to which the guidelines apply.

III. **APPLICATION:**

The Lakeshore Behavioral Health Alliance and each Affiliate and as applicable their direct or contracted providers.

IV. **DEFINITIONS:**

Practice Guidelines: Tools or standardized specifications for care of a representative individual in a typical situation developed through a formal process that incorporates best scientific evidence of effectiveness with expert opinion.

Evidence-based Practices: Practices that have been rigorously research through at least three independent clinical trials. When the practice is implemented as outlined, the practice can be systematically replicated and renders statistically significant outcomes.

Promising Practices: Practices that have expert consensus or other support but which have not been as rigorously evaluated scientifically.

Practice-based Evidence: An approach that attempts to make sure that a treatment works.

Clinical Standards: Clinical standards are recommendations for the performance or exclusion of specific procedures or services for specific disease entities. They represent the expected care for an individual with a particular disorder. Clinical standards can be used as a monitoring tool for quality assessment and improvement.

V. **PROCEDURE:**

A. Prior to adoption of a Practice Guideline, evidence- based practices, best practices or clinical standards, the PIHP and each Affiliate will:

1. Identify those individuals within the PIHP and each Affiliate who will participate in the review and preliminary adoption of the proposed Practice Guideline(s) including but not limited to the Medical Director.
2. Maintain documentation identifying the source of the proposed practice guideline(s), clinical standards, evidence of validity of guideline(s) and/or source evidence of consensus of health care professionals particular to the proposed guideline(s).
3. Obtain Board approval and as applicable, payer approval.

- B. Dissemination and Maintenance of adopted Practice Guidelines, Evidence-Based Practices, Promising Practices or Clinical Standards
1. Each Affiliate will maintain evidence of orderly and appropriate distribution of Practice Guidelines, evidence-based practices, promising practices or clinical standards to providers who are required to use them and, upon request, to members and potential members. Evidence includes but is not limited to contract language and Provider Manual content.
 2. Each Affiliate will maintain evidence of periodic review and update of adopted practice guideline(s), clinical standards, evidence-based practices or promising practices.
 3. Each Affiliate will specify in writing the procedure/documentation/approval process required for providers to use alternatives to the practice guideline(s), clinical standards, evidence-based practices or promising practices.
- C. Implementation and Monitoring of Practice Guidelines, Evidence-based Practices, Promising Practices and Clinical Standards
1. Each Affiliate will assure and maintain evidence that providers that are expected to comply with the practice guideline(s), evidence-based practices, promising practices or clinical standards are appropriately credentialed and meet the competencies required for use of the Guidelines(s), evidence-based practices, promising practices and clinical standards and are fully oriented to the content of the guideline (s), evidence-based practices, promising practices or clinical standards.
 2. Each Affiliate will provide and maintain documentation of re-orientation and /or other remediation actions when non-compliance with mandatory practice guideline(s), evidence-based practices, promising practices, and clinical standards is identified.
 3. Each Affiliate will implement and maintain evidence of periodic monitoring of the application and compliance with the practice guideline(s), evidence-based practices, promising practices and clinical standards.
- D Each Affiliate will maintain evidence that practice guideline(s), clinical standards, evidence based practices or promising practices are utilized in decision making, including but not limited to utilization management, enrollee education, and coverage of services.

V. **REFERENCES:**

Federal Register, Volume 15, June 14, 2002 Rules and Regulations
Sec. 438.236: – D Practice Guidelines
MDCH Technical Requirement P 6.7.1.1 qapipR 5/1/07