



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

SUBJECT

Consent Forms for the Release of Confidential Information

BY

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EFFECTIVE DATE:

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers that the requirement to use the Consent Forms For the Release of Confidential Information, issued under Medical Assistance Bulletin (MAB) 99-00-05, is **SUSPENDED**. The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) and the Department of Health (DOH) will re-examine the Consent Forms transmitted by MAB 99-00-05 and evaluate potential revisions to the forms and the scope of coverage.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers participating in the Medical Assistance Program, including providers within the HealthChoices Physical Health and Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations (MCO's), and voluntary MCO's.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Consent Forms transmitted by MAB 99-00-05 were jointly developed by DPW and DOH, for use by providers when the sharing of patient information is necessary to ensure coordination of treatment regimens. Since the implementation of MAB 99-00-05, DPW and DOH have received many inquiries regarding the proper use and/or applicability of the Consent Forms. As a result of these inquiries, DPW and DOH have decided to conduct further review of the Consent Forms.

PROCEDURE:

Providers are not required to use the Consent Forms transmitted by MAB 99-00-05. At their discretion, however, providers may continue to use the Consent Forms transmitted through MAB 99-00-05, or choose to develop and utilize "in-house" forms that satisfy the consent and disclosure requirements under applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

Questions concerning statutory or regulatory governance of confidentiality and release of patient information should be directed to the appropriate program office.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate Program Office.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.