



News You Can Use...

November 2011

Medicare Covers Screening and Counseling for Alcohol Misuse and Screening for Depression

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced two new national coverage determinations that cover alcohol misuse screening and behavioral counseling for Medicare beneficiaries as well as screening for depression. These new coverage policies add to the existing portfolio of covered preventive services, most of which are now available to people with Medicare at no additional cost.

The coverage decision on alcohol misuse screening is online at

<http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=249> and the decision on depression screening is online at

<http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=251>.

Medicare Online Training Offers CEUs

The National Medicare Training Program is pleased to announce their Medicare training webinar schedule. These training sessions provide current, accurate, consistent Medicare information and materials for people who are new to Medicare and those people wanting a refresher. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is offering 0.4 Continuing Education Units (CEU) for this program.

Please visit <http://www.cms.gov/NationalMedicareTrainingProgram/Web-based%20Training.asp> for more information.

Screening, Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Webinar

SBIRT is an approach that you can use during routine medical or specialty care visits to determine if a person's alcohol or drug use may be causing potential harm to his/her overall health. Simple tools make it easy to implement in your setting. Visit the [SBIRT web page](#) for valuable resources and downloadable clinical tools. The Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) webinar date is November 23 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM EST. For more webinar information or to register, [click here](#).

View previously recorded webinars and register for upcoming webinar workshops at: <http://www.ireta.org/webinars>.



Late Life Depression: What Every Provider Should Know (Webinar)

The MH Association of New York City is sponsoring a training on late life depression on November 8 at 2:00. This webinar will provide an overview of clinical depression among older adults. Participants will learn about the epidemiology of late-life depression; and they'll learn how to spot warning signs, address risk factors, provide effective clinical and psychosocial interventions and connect at-risk elders with treatment and support. The webinar will be presented by Dan G. Blazer, MD, MPH, PhD, Professor of Community and Family Medicine at Duke University. For more information and to register, please go to <http://www.mha-nyc.org/advocacy/geriatric-mental-health-alliance-of-new-york/upcoming-events.aspx>.

New Alzheimer's Guidelines – Webinar

New Alzheimer's Guidelines: How Will Research and Practice Be Affected? was offered by the APA Public Interest and Science Directorates on October 3rd. [New guidelines for the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease \(AD\)](#) were published in April, 2011, by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute on Aging. The new guidelines, intended to bring new research advances to bear on AD diagnosis, update criteria that were adopted in 1984. The webinar is available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/index.aspx>

Mental Health Needs of Family Caregivers - Webinar

Mental Health Needs of Family Caregivers: Identifying, Engaging and Assisting was offered by the American Psychological Association Office on Aging, in partnership with the U.S. Administration on Aging on September 14th. The webinar includes information about: (1) the range of mental health issues that may occur in family caregivers; (2) strategies to identify and engage family caregivers experiencing strain (3) effective interventions effective in addressing caregiver stress and burden, and (4) the availability of resources for those who work with family caregivers including the American Psychological Association's *Family Caregiver Briefcase*. The webinar is available at: <http://www.apa.org/pi/about/publications/caregivers/index.aspx>.

HHS Halts CLASS Implementation

HHS Secretary Sebelius issued a report on the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) program, stating that "we have not identified a way to make CLASS work at this time" and that implementation of the program would be suspended. CLASS is a voluntary, federally administered, consumer-financed, long-term care insurance program established under the Affordable Care Act. NCOA and a broad range of organizations representing seniors and people with disabilities are deeply disappointed by this decision, which many believe was premature and lacked meaningful consultation. The report contains extensive actuarial analyses that present several options for implementation. [Read more about CLASS](#) or [read the HHS report](#).



Illicit Drug Use among Older Adults

Illicit drug use generally declines as individuals move through young adulthood into middle adulthood and maturity, but research has shown that the baby-boom generation (persons born between 1946 and 1964) has relatively higher drug use rates than previous generations. It has been predicted that, as the baby boom generation ages, past year marijuana use will almost triple between 1999/2001 and 2020 among persons aged 50 or older. Nonmedical use of prescription-type drugs also has been identified as a concern for this population. A recent report from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health examines this issue. Read the report [here](#).

CDC Report Identifies Need for Increased Monitoring of Adult Mental Illness

This report summarizes data from selected Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveillance systems that measure the prevalence and impact of mental illness in the U.S. adult population. It is the first agency-wide compilation of data from selected surveillance and information systems that measure the prevalence and effects of mental illness in the U.S. adult population. Press Release:

http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/a0901_adult_mental_illness.html

Full Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6003a1.htm>

I'm the Evidence/Mental Health Campaign — Celebrating Hope, Encouragement, Recovery

There's a movement afoot in the behavioral health community. Across the state, men and women are standing as the Evidence that people recover from mental illness. They are empowered and supported by the [I'm the Evidence/Mental Health Campaign](#) (ITE/MH), a grassroots Campaign that engages [individuals](#), [organizations](#), and communities in the support of recovery, by honoring human potential and inspiring hope, creating opportunities, and offering encouragement.

<http://www.mhapa.org/newsletter/0811/03.htm> <http://www.itecampaign.org/>

Profile of Older Americans: 2010 Now Available

The web based publication *Profile of Older Americans: 2010* is now available online. To access this publication, [click here](#).

Introduction to Effective Behavioral Health Service Delivery in Primary Care Settings - Webinar

An introduction for clinicians in Federally Qualified Health Centers and Community Behavioral Health Organizations interested in learning more about the evidence based practices for integrating behavioral health into primary care. The focus is how behavioral health needs present in primary care, screening and diagnostic practices and clinical routines of integrated care. Want clarification of the differences from behavioral health services that are close but separate from those that are integrated? Drs. Blount and Olmedo describe team-oriented training for behavioral health clinicians and physicians.

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/812302570>



Coalition News

The Coalition is Now on Facebook!

Click on the following link and “like” us to receive a fact sheet on older adults, depression and suicide. Use this as an opportunity to share with others about the behavioral health needs of older adults and read updates and posts about this important issue!

http://www.facebook.com/PBHAC?sk=app_134986609932858

Older Adult Certified Peer Specialist Training Now Available!

This training will prepare current Certified Peer Specialists to utilize existing experience, skills and training to work with Older Adults living with behavioral health disorders. Information about the training is available [here](#). The training is scheduled for November 14 – 16 and space is still available!

Understanding Dementia: Diagnosis, Treatment and Behavioral Management

The Coalition’s training series for 2011/12 will focus on dementia. At the completion of the training, participants will be able to:

- Differentiate the most common forms of dementia
- Identify the new diagnostic criteria for Alzheimer’s disease
- Articulate the difference between delirium and dementia.
- Appreciate the common psychiatric and behavioral symptoms of the individual suffering from dementia.
- Describe interventions that may be used with individuals who are suffering from dementia including: communication skills, behavioral management, psychosocial interventions, and medications.
- Identify community resources available for both professionals and family caregivers.

Dates for the training, being offered at 6 locations across the state, are below. Click on the date to be taken directly to the online registration form, or click here for a copy of the [flyer](#).

- [December 7, 2011, State College, Centre County](#)
(<http://www.olderpa.org/ViewEvent.ashx?eventId=365006>)
- [April 4, 2012, Bryn Mawr, Montgomery County](#)
(<http://www.olderpa.org/ViewEvent.ashx?eventId=365008>)
- [May 9, 2012, Edwardsville, Luzerne County](#)
(<http://www.olderpa.org/ViewEvent.ashx?eventId=365010>)
- [May 16, 2012, Clearfield, Clearfield County](#)
(<http://www.olderpa.org/ViewEvent.ashx?eventId=365011>)

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