



ALAMANCE-CASWELL
LOCAL MANAGEMENT ENTITY

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Norman M. Melton, Jr.
Chair, Area Board

MEMORANDUM

TO: Enrolled Providers

FROM: Alicia Graham, LPC
UM Manager

DATE: February 27, 2006

RE: Communication Bulletin #8

H-Code Initial Assessments-6 vs. 4 units

It has been brought to our attention that initial assessments are taking longer than the four units that are currently being authorized. After investigation of this issue, it has been determined that starting 3/6/06 an initial assessment will be authorized for six units instead of four. Please note that we will not be back authorizing or reimbursing 6 (six) units for past assessments that were authorized for 4 (four units).

Emergency After-hours protocol for Mental Health or Substance Abuse Beds

Emergency Services is defined as those services necessary to screen and stabilize a consumer in cases where a prudent layperson, acting reasonably, would have believed an emergency existed. **Emergency services do not require preauthorization. However, even in the case of emergency services, the LME should be notified of the emergency situation as soon as reasonably possible by calling the UR department and informing them of the situation.** The LME will then be able to ensure that services rendered have the appropriate authorization entered into the electronic system so that claims may be paid in a timely manner. The LME also needs to ensure that any necessary follow-up services are both arranged and authorized.