

Office of Mental Health And Substance Abuse Services
Bureau of Policy and Program Development

HealthChoices Behavioral Health

Policy Clarification

Issue Clarification
Date of Receipt:

Applicability:
Source Documentation:

Submitted by: Community Behavioral Health
County Authority: Philadelphia
Topic Area: Encounter Form Signature Exemption for Crisis Intervention Services

Question: The Medical Assistance Bulletin #99-89-05 dated May 26, 1989, titled *Signature Requirements and Encounter Forms* specifically exempts emergency room services from signature requirements to certify the receipt of service by the Medical Assistance beneficiary. Are licensed mobile mental health crisis intervention service providers eligible to utilize the “signature exemption” for emergency services when unable to obtain a signature?

Background: Licensed mobile mental health crisis intervention service providers are not always able to obtain the signature of the beneficiary who is receiving mobile mental health crisis intervention services or someone able to sign on behalf of the beneficiary.

OMHSAS Response

Section 301(d)(4) of The Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 requires counties to ensure the availability of emergency services. OMHSAS considers mobile mental health crisis services to be emergency services. While every effort should be made to obtain a signature from the beneficiary or a parent, legal guardian, relative, or friend, when such signature cannot be obtained due to the nature of the situation, crisis intervention service providers are permitted to insert “Signature Exception” on the signature line of the encounter form.



Director, Bureau of Policy and Program Development

4/15/2024
Date: