

# North Sound Mental Health Administration

Regional Support Network for Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties  
*Improving the mental health and well being of individuals and families in our communities*

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NSMHA Contract Memorandum 2015-003

Date: February 6, 2015

To: Tom Sebastian, Compass Health and Compass Whatcom  
Donna Konicki, Bridgeways  
Michael Watson, Lake Whatcom RTC  
Will Rice, Catholic Community Services Northwest  
Claudia D'Allegri, Sea Mar  
Ken Stark, Snohomish County Human Services Director  
Phil Smith, Volunteers of America  
Cindy Paffumi, Interfaith  
Sue Closser, Sunrise Services  
Robert Sullivan, Pioneer Human Services  
Dr. Jerry Jenkins, NWESD 189  
Beratta Gomillion, Center for Human Services

From: Joe Valentine, Executive Director


Subject: Outpatient Episodes

This communication is regarding recent discussion on outpatient episodes in the NSMHA CIS. NSMHA has determined that the outpatient episode transmitted to NSMHA must reflect the individual's current status with NSMHA. This means that when NSMHA is the payer, the outpatient episode shall reflect as open and when NSMHA is no longer the payer, whether due to discharge from treatment or continuation in services under another payer, the outpatient episode shall reflect closed. When an episode is closed because NSMHA is no longer the payer, a service disposition must also be transmitted to NSMHA.

NSMHA recognizes the cost of the EHRs to providers, which is why we have provided significant funding to support providers in this transition and why we want to ensure that we are getting the most clear and accurate information we can out of the CIS. Unfortunately, other attempted solutions didn't adequately address the need. We believe adding this capability to the EHR will provide our system with the ability to know when NSMHA is the payer, know the services we are paying for, collect clearer data, and support the transition to a BHO.

The timeline for ensuring the capability to transmit data to NSMHA as outlined above is April 1, 2015.

Respectfully,

  
Joe Valentine  
Executive Director

CC: NSMHA Contracted Providers CIS Committee

cc: Cindy Ferraro, Bridgeways  
Heather Fennell, Compass Health  
Kay Burbidge, Lake Whatcom RTC  
Pamala Benjamin, Compass Whatcom  
Pat Morris, Volunteers of America  
Katherine Scott, Sea Mar  
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Rebecca Clark, Mental Health Program Coordinator  
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Eric Chambers, NWESD 189  
Contract File