In this issue:

DoD proposes revisions to TRICARE to reduce administrative barriers to treatment
New standards effective July 1 to address eating disorders programs
CCBHC regulations go hand-in-hand with Joint Commission accreditation, certification
See you there!

Accreditation and certification

DoD proposes revisions to TRICARE to reduce administrative barriers to treatment
The United States Department of Defense (DoD) is proposing revisions to the TRICARE regulation, and is inviting comments on the proposal. The purpose of these revisions is to continue to destigmatize and expand mental health services and treatment for U.S. service members and their families.

The revisions aim to reduce administrative barriers for patients and improve access to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for TRICARE beneficiaries. The main four objectives, as stated, are to:

- Eliminate both quantitative and qualitative treatment limitations on SUD and mental health coverage, as well as align beneficiary cost-sharing with those applicable to medical/surgical benefits
- Include coverage for intensive outpatient programs, as well as treatment programs for opioid use
- Streamline requirements for mental health and SUD providers to become authorized as TRICARE providers
- Develop reimbursement methods for newly recognized programs

Other revisions would lead to removing limitations on:

- The number of smoking cessation quit attempts during a 12-month period and 18 in-person counseling sessions per attempt
- SUD treatment, annually or lifetime

It also aims to remove the exclusion of treatment for those with gender dysphoria.

Comments on the revisions, proposed by the United States DoD, must be received by April 1 and can be made online.

New standards effective July 1 to address eating disorders programs
Beginning July 1, 2016, Joint Commission-accredited behavioral health care organizations that provide outpatient or residential eating disorders programs will have new standards that address the following aspects of these programs:

- Assessments
- Plan of care, treatment, or services
• Outcomes assessment
• Data to be collected and analyzed
• Transitions of care
• Components of care, treatment, or services
• Roles of key staff and other clinicians
• Supervision of individuals served
• Family involvement
• Marketing materials and insurance information
• Organization policies

Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any behavioral health disorder, therefore, The Joint Commission developed new standards to help these programs provide the safest and highest-quality care, treatment or services possible. The requirements will appear in the “Care, Treatment, and Services” (CTS), “Leadership” (LD), “Performance Improvement” (PI), and “Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual” (RI) chapters in the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Behavioral Health Care Organizations (CAMBHC).

The Academy for Eating Disorders and Residential Eating Disorders Consortium brought the standards development opportunity to The Joint Commission, shared its best practices document, and participated in The Joint Commission’s advisory groups throughout the process.

Susan Ice, MD, vice president and chief medical officer of The Renfrew Center, helped develop the standards, and the organization — which is the nation’s first residential eating disorder facility and which operates 16 locations throughout the U.S. — helped pilot test the new standards.

“We learned that The Joint Commission is a forward-thinking organization that realizes it is time to have some standards that relate to the complexity of eating disorders,” Dr. Ice said. “Eating disorders are not your average behavior health disorder; there are so many other variables that need to be evaluated and treated — particularly with respect to the medical complications.”

She said eating disorders are typically found in younger demographics, so the role of the family needs to be considered.

“I think the added standards really do address those issues and concerns, particularly with respect to how to integrate the medical and nutritional components,” Dr. Ice said.

She hopes the new standards will direct patients and their families to more appropriate, standards-based treatment centers.

“I think families often do look for Joint Commission accreditation, and insurance companies certainly do, too,” she said. “Joint Commission accreditation is going to help make the programs that are really qualified stand out.”

The pilot test phase of the process was of great value to The Renfrew Center as some areas were identified for improvement.

“I always find Joint Commission visits to be satisfying, because it really validates what we’re doing, and there is always something that we can take away from it and use to learn to make ourselves better,” she said.

View the prepublication standards.
CCBHC regulations go hand-in-hand with Joint Commission accreditation, certification

Accreditation by a nationally recognized organization is recommended by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) community certified behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs) regulations. These regulations align well with The Joint Commission’s Behavioral Health Care accreditation and with its Behavioral Health Home certification. As such, organizations that are BHC accredited and BHH certified are well-positioned for CCBHC recognition in one of the CCBHC demonstration states. SAMHSA also has a Web page dedicated to information on becoming a CCHBC.

There are Joint Commission crosswalks to CCBHC regulations in the following areas:

Behavioral Health Care Accreditation
- Licensing and credentialing
- Cultural competency and other training
- Linguistic competence
- Availability/accessibility of services
- Care coordination
- Scope of services
- Data collection and quality improvement
- Governance

Health Home Certification
- Competency and training
- Availability/accessibility of services
- Care coordination
- Scope of services
- Data collection and quality improvement

To discuss in more detail, or for a full copy of the crosswalk, contact Darrell Anderson at 630-792-5866.

See you there!

Coming up, Joint Commission Behavioral Health Care Accreditation staff will be at:
- American Association of Children’s Residential Centers annual conference in Chicago: March 29-31
- Innovations in Recovery in San Diego: April 4-7
- Tuerk Conference on Behavioral Health and Addiction Treatment in Baltimore: April 13