

October 2008

[www.cohealth.org](http://www.cohealth.org)

Our company has been doing a lot of training on the health and behavior codes for psychologists. These are a series of CPT codes that allow psychologists to work with patients whose medical conditions have co-existing or co-morbid psychological complications. For acute medical settings, this covers nearly the entire patient population, and in LTC, this is equally true for most residents but is especially so for the short term, rehab population. Medicare's authorization of these procedures means that behavioral health consultants can address many of the emotional, behavioral, and attitudinal factors underlying patients' medical disorders and chronic diseases. Further, it is the patient's medical diagnosis that the services are billed under, rather than a psychiatric diagnosis.

There are a couple of important implications to this: first, patients who will benefit from brief interventions such as stress management or skill development, may receive these services without requiring a formal psychiatric diagnosis, no matter how benign, and second, because these services fall within the medical taxonomy of diseases, they are paid at 80% of the Medicare allowable rate, instead of the usual 50% for traditional psychotherapy services. In other words, full parity with our medical colleagues. And, because these services are billed under Part B, they are allowable regardless of the patient's status on Part A.

One of the real advantages of the H&B model is that they foster greater collaboration with the rest of the health care team. The expertise of the behavioral health consultant becomes a central element in the treatment plan, and greater involvement with other caregivers ultimately means better, more comprehensive care for the patient. There is also a shift from provider-driven treatment to patient-driven change, where we can give the patient more of the tools needed to effect some behavioral changes, and the consultant doesn't take over the work the patient should be doing. Third, because these services become integrated within the overall plan of care, there is a seamlessness across the treatment team, from one specialty to another, reducing the disconnection that is sometimes observed in health care settings.

Fortunately, with these codes, psychologists are in a position to be change agents for the patient, and for the institutional setting, when these health and behavior approach is adopted. If you are interested in learning more, sign up for our [web conference](#) or, alternatively, take the [online course](#).

## Article on Resistance in Older Adults

The fall issue of [Aging Well Magazine](#) included an article by Dr. Casciani on redirecting resistance in older adults. Take a look at the article for some very practical, relevant ideas on working with the non-compliant, resistant older adult. It is attached to this eNewsletter for your enjoyment. Thanks to Barbara Worthington at Aging Well for permission to distribute this article. [www.magnetmail.net/images/clients/CONCEPTHEA/attach/ResistantClientsAWFall08.pdf](http://www.magnetmail.net/images/clients/CONCEPTHEA/attach/ResistantClientsAWFall08.pdf)

## CoHEALTH INFORMATION

### Upcoming Web Conferences

**DAYS AND TIMES VARY -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Join us for our series of live web conferences**

- Easy to access using a single phone line (audio) and an optional internet connection (for visuals)
- Any number of participants may attend at a single site, for 1 registration fee
- Run 1 hour (1.0 CE credit), except H&B, which is 1.5 hours and 1.5 CE credits
- Login information and a copy of the *Participant Guide* are sent in advance

November 5 -- 8:00am PT, 9:00 MT, 10:00 CT, 11:00 ET

**Effective Treatment drives Good Documentation: How to Make Sure Health and Behavior and Psychotherapy Services are Medically Necessary**  
- Brenda K. Billimoria,

## Tailored Training

Looking for staff inservice training? We offer custom inservices on behavioral health topics, individually-tailored to the needs of the employees in your organization. Select from subjects on aging and mental health, dementia, behavior management, and others. You select the time and date, and format. The hourly fee includes Participant Guide (presentation outline handout), educational objectives, a post-test evaluation, and a certificate of completion, plus a optional CE, an audio recording of the presentation, and a written transcript of the presentation to keep in your library. [Staff training, on demand.](#)

## Job Postings

In case you are unaware, CoHealth also is providing direct mental and behavioral health services to residents in LTC settings. On our home page, there is a "Job Postings" tab for psychologists, LCSW's, psychiatrists, and advanced practice nurses interested in working with us in our direct services division of Concept Healthcare in California and Texas. Our aim is to partner with LTC facilities and rehabilitation companies, and deliver behavioral health services and consultation. Our focus is on older adult residents whose medical conditions are complicated or exacerbated by co-morbid psychological issues, and cannot manage or recover from their conditions because of these barriers. [More details](#)

## The Podium is Yours!

If you or your organization would like to schedule a live event, such as educational program, virtual meeting, or conference, and want to avoid arranging the meeting location, the announcement, the registration process, and CE accreditation, consider using CoHealth's "Podium." You decide on the topic, speaker, date and time, participant list, and online registration, and rely on our conference service, toll free phone line, online registration, and promotion. We can offer CE credit for qualified topics, and handle recording of the event, if desired. Select [Podium](#) for more details.

## Upcoming Web Conference on PQRI for Mental Health Practitioners

Get on board with PQRI, to earn your reward! CoHealth is sponsoring a 1-hour presentation on the Physician's Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) on Friday, November 14, 2008. The live presentation will be given by Dr. Paula Hartmann-Stein who was the chair of the small expert work group to develop the first set of quality measures for psychologists and social workers under the Medicare system. Paula was appointed to the work group by Division 12 of APA. During this live web conference, Paula will cover the nuts and bolts of conducting these new quality measures in your practices, and how to get paid the extra financial bonus.

These incentives incorporate good clinical practices with our Medicare patients, such as screening for depression, verifying medications, or screening for abuse. Learning how to code these measures means financial bonuses under Medicare. Mental health providers who bill Medicare are strongly encouraged to participate in this seminar. Pay for performance is a major trend in today's health care climate, and is a trend that is not going away. One hour of CE credit will be given. Registration details are available on our website. [Register](#)

## Upcoming Web Conference on POLST for Licensed Health Care Facilities

Effective January 1, 2009, all licensed health care facilities in California must honor a POLST form (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) that helps patients inform health care providers about the life-sustaining medical interventions they want to receive if they are frail, have a compromising medical condition, a prognosis of one year or less, or have a terminal illness. Our expert on end of life issues, Brenda Billimoria will be offering a live web conference on

December 10 at 8am PT on this important topic. More details will be available on the

LCSW (\* APA, BRN, BBSE, TXBSW, FLBSW)

[Register](#)

November 14 -- 7:00am PT, 8:00 MT, 9:00 CT, 10:00 ET

**The Physician's Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI): Making it Work for You** - Paula Hartman-Stein, PhD (\* APA, BRN, BBSE, TXBSW, FLBSW)

[Register](#)

November 19 -- 7:00am PT, 8:00 MT, 9:00 CT, 10:00 ET

**Use and Benefits of Health and Behavior CPT Codes in LTC for Psychologists** - Joseph M. Casciani, PhD (\*APA) - EXPANDED TO 1.5 hrs.

[Register](#)

December 10 -- 8:00am PT, 9:00 MT, 10:00 CT, 11:00 ET

**Implementing Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) in Your Facility** - Brenda K. Billimoria, LCSW (\* CA BRN)

[Contact us for Details](#)

Web Conferences tab on our website. [Web Conferences](#)

## OTHER RESOURCES OF INTEREST

The MetLife Mature Market Institute has a number of long-term care and caregiving publications available free to the public in advance of Long-Term Care Awareness month in November. Helpful Hints, produced in conjunction with the National Alliance for Caregiving, are two-page informational bulletins that contain tips and advice for older Americans and for those caring for aging friends and relatives. The tip sheets can be accessed online at [www.maturemarketinstitute.com](http://www.maturemarketinstitute.com) under "What's New."

For anyone caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease, The Copper Ridge Institute has developed a training resource for caregivers, providing important steps for caring for loved ones with this disease. This free program re-creates many of the daily situations that caregivers encounter and provides approaches for each of these situations. For a copy of the DVD, visit [www.alzcast.org](http://www.alzcast.org).

DisabilityInfo.gov website links visitors to disability-related programs and services from numerous government agencies and is designed as a one-stop website where people with disabilities can easily find the resources they need, such as benefits, civil rights, community life, education, employment, health, housing, technology and transportation. The site includes a state and local resources map, which makes it easy to locate disability-related information in specific areas. For more information, visit: [www.disabilityinfo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.gov).

A very good fact sheet on age-related vision loss is available from the Family Caregiver Alliance: [vision loss](#).

### **Concept Healthcare is approved by the following agencies to provide continuing education credits:**

*Concept Healthcare is approved by the **American Psychological Association** (APA) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Concept Healthcare maintains responsibility for this program and its content.*

*Concept Healthcare is a provider approved by the **California Board of Registered Nursing**, Provider No. 15052. (States that accept nursing CE credits from CA BRN-approved providers include AL, AK, IA, KS, KY, MA, MI, NE, NV, OH, OR, TX-Type 1, UT, WY).*

*The **National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long Term Care Administrators** has approved this program. See Participant Guide for the NCERS Course Approval number. This course has been reviewed and approved by the NAB, NCERS, Course # 2412008-26746-1. NCERS strives to approve only quality programs whose content can reasonably contribute to the professional development of long term care administrators. If you have any confidential comments concerning this program which you would like to make to NCERS administration, please direct them by phone or email to NAB, 202-712-9040, [nab@bostrum.com](mailto:nab@bostrum.com).*

*Concept Healthcare is an approved provider of the **California Board of Behavior Sciences** (Approval # PCE 4238). Courses meet the qualifications for CE credit for MFTs and/or LCSWs as required by the CA BBS.*

*Concept Healthcare is approved by the **Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners** (Provider # 5179). Consumer Complaint Hotline 800-942-5540.*

*Concept Healthcare is approved by the **Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counseling***

(CE Provider # 50-9732 Exp. 03/31/2009).

Concept Healthcare is a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) Continuing Education (CE) Provider, Nurse Aide Certification (NAC) #6728, approved by the **California Department of Public Health, Aide and Technician Certification Section**. This approved NAC number applies only to CNA/CHHA's in the State of California.

**See something you liked in this newsletter? Have a comment or suggestion about our newsletters? Tell us what you think. Email us at [info@cohealth.org](mailto:info@cohealth.org).**



**Corporate Headquarters:**  
Concept Healthcare. LLC  
San Diego. CA 92117-3370  
[www.cohealth.org](http://www.cohealth.org)  
Phone: 858-272-3992  
Fax: 858-272-3840

**For more information:**  
Susan Christ  
Director of Marketing and Sales  
[schrist@cohealth.org](mailto:schrist@cohealth.org)

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Send us an email: [info@cohealth.org](mailto:info@cohealth.org) Or, if you prefer to no longer receive these announcements, please let us know by emailing us at [info@cohealth.org](mailto:info@cohealth.org).

Concept Healthcare emails may sometimes not be delivered correctly to your inbox. To avoid this problem, please click [here](#) to review our white listing information.

4901 Morena Boulevard, Suite 109, San Diego, CA 92117-3370