

HIV Care Services Contractor Newsflash

May 2010

HIV Care Services announces "Topics in Contracting"(TIC): Contractor Training Web Conferences

HIV Care Services (HIVCS) is excited to announce a new web-conference contractor training series entitled "Topics in Contracting (TIC).

The TIC web-conference trainings will occur throughout the contract year, and are an opportunity for HIVCS to provide Ryan White and NYC HIV Prevention contractors with a better understanding about various contracting processes and protocols. Generally, the TIC trainings will be an hour long, and notifications of trainings will be communicated by an HIVCS Contractor Newsflash.

HIVCS welcomes contractor feedback on topics for the TIC trainings. If you have ideas for a training, please submit them to

rgoldfarb@healthsolutions.org

Please join us for the first TIC web-conference training entitled "*The MIR: What it is, What it Does, and Why I Need it in my Contracting Life*" During

this web-conference HIVCS will review:

- **What is the MIR, how is it produced, and who receives it?**
- **What's new in the 2010 version of the MIR? (Looking at projections)**
- **What are the steps for investigating apparent discrepancies?**
- **What do item-level problem codes mean and what should be done about them?**
- **How are the MIR and the Summary of Issues Noted (SIN) report used during closeout?**

To register for this web-conference, click this link, or copy and paste it into your browser. You will then be requested to register, and will receive a confirmation email with a link to the web-conference and directions.

<https://cc.readytalk.com/r/2icwcaw5wdnb>

The Payability Guide, Newly Updated!

As you may know, the *Guide to Requirements for Service Payability and Data Reporting* has been developed by HIVCS and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide organizations with guidance on submitting data for performance-based contracts.

The guide is updated quarterly. The May 2010 update, which is now available at

<http://www.healthsolutions.org/hivcare/documents/RequirementsGuide.pdf>

, brings together the most pertinent information about services and data reporting for both Ryan White and NYC HIV Prevention contracts. The major emphasis of the guide is on the requirements for payment, but the guide also covers certain requirements for contract compliance, and provides information on other data reporting and evaluation requirements.

Summarized below are the most important updates to the guide in 2010 so far:

New Service Categories

A new section was added for the Evidence or Theory-Based Interventions (EBI) service category. Only those interventions which are paid performance-based are included.

New service category sections were added for Care Coordination, Rapid Testing in High-Risk Venues and Housing Legal Services.

(see Payability Guide, page 2)

(Payability Guide, continued)

Care Coordination

The Care Coordination section includes the new rules: Enrollment records which are redundant (i.e. which merely repeat a client's enrollment in the same track, which was already reported on a previous date) will be marked for deletion and must be removed from AIRS by the contractor; and any instances in which the same client has more than one Enrollment record of different types on the same day will be marked for review and correction by the contractor.

The Care Coordination section mentions that there are a number of AIRS encounter/service mappings that are not currently tracked by HIV Care Services, and are therefore not listed in the guide, but which must be entered if those services are provided.

HIV Testing

Early Intervention and Harm Reduction sections were updated to state the revised rule that each client may receive up to four Rapid Tests per contract year.

Sections on service categories that have Confirmatory Test and/or Linkage to Care payment points were updated to note that for acutely infected clients, these services are payable based on the reporting of a NAAT positive result from a confirmatory test that follows a negative

rapid test. (See details for data entry procedure.)

Sections on all service categories that have Linkage to Care payment points were updated to clarify the data entry procedure involving the CTR module and the referral to a primary care provider.

The Early Intervention and Harm Reduction sections were updated to state that Rapid Tests that do not have a test result entered will not be processed for payment. This change was communicated to contractors in a letter from HIV Care Services on March 11, 2010.

The Early Intervention section was updated to state that eligibility for linkage to care includes clients who have been out of care for nine or more months in addition to those who have never been in care.

The Early Intervention section was updated regarding Linkages to Care. The different data entry procedures (depending on whether the linkage to care was for a known positive client or for one identified through testing) were clarified. There are also now two different service type codes on the MIR corresponding to these two situations; previously both situations were subsumed under the same service type code.

Rules in Other Categories

The Harm Reduction section was updated to include two new payment point services among the Low Threshold AOD Services. These are Low threshold Assessment and Referral for STI and Low Threshold Screening and Referral for Substance use Treatment. They are substantively the same services as are already provided under the AOD Services family, but now may be provided to HIV- clients.

The Harm Reduction section was updated to state that Overdose prevention services that do not involve dispensing Narcan may be billed as normal Individual or Group AOD Counseling.

To access the Payability Guide, go to :

<http://www.healthsolutions.org/hivcare/documents/RequirementsGuide.pdf>



Reminder: The HIV Prevention Desktop Reference Guide is On-Line!



This is a reminder that the HIV Prevention Desktop Reference Guide (DRG) has recently been updated and available for contractors.

This guide provides an overview of contracting requirements for all HIV Prevention contract types. It should be used as a source of information about administering your HIVCS/Public Health Solutions contract, and can be used to orient new staff to the contracting process. The guide is designed to address routine questions about your contract; however, your HIVCS Contract Manager is always available to answer any specific questions you may have.

The HIV Prevention DRG consists of seven chapters that correspond to the various aspects of contracting. It includes information about contract management, reporting requirements and contract compliance, and provides detailed instructions where applicable. Periodically, HIVCS may also distribute communications and/or special instructions to supplement the information provided in this resource.

To access the 2009 HIV Prevention DRG, go www.healthsolutions.org/hivcare/?event=page.resources