

WASATCH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT

PREFERRED PRACTICE GUIDELINES – C – 5.01

Purpose:

To ensure that Wasatch Mental Health Services Special Service District (WMH) adheres to the established Preferred Practice Guidelines (PPG's) ratified by the Utah State Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (USDSAMH) and Utah Behavior Healthcare Committee (UBHC).

Definitions:

Preferred Practice Guidelines (PPG): An established set of clinical guidelines adopted by USDSAMH contracting agencies providing mental health services in Utah.

USDSAMH Preferred Practice Guidelines - Statement of Intent:

“These practice guidelines are not to be construed to limit in any way, the individualization of treatment, clinician creativity, or the ability of the clinician to provide treatment in the best interests of the client. Standards of care are determined on the basis of all clinical data available for an individual case and are subject to change as scientific knowledge and technology advance and patterns evolve. These guidelines for practice should be considered guidelines only. Adherence to them will not ensure a successful outcome in every case, nor should they be construed as including all proper methods of care or excluding other acceptable methods of care aimed at the same results. It is recognized that optimal outcomes will not always be obtained in treatment.”

Policy:

WMH will adopt and implement the PPG's approved by USDSAMH and UBHC as they are ratified. WMH will evaluate and include, where possible - based on capability and resources, other appropriate PPG's or Standards identified and approved by qualified mental health entities such as the American Psychiatric Association. WMH will require all clinical staff members to receive training on the PPG's and to use them as guiding principles in the treatment of their respective clients.

Procedure:

WMH's Director of Care Management Services (CMS) will be responsible for keeping WMH's Executive, and Quality Improvement (QI) Committees apprised of any USDSAMH and UBHC Clinical Services Committee undertakings in the creation of PPG's. The CMS director, as chair of the QI Committee, will review with the QI committee other PPG's or standards identified by qualified bodies on their relevance to WMH clinical practices. The CMS director will maintain an up-to-date text of WMH's adopted PPG's, ensure its dissemination to WMH's division directors, and ensure its availability to clinical staff. The current PPG's can be accessed on WMH and USDSAMH websites.

WMH's Adult and Youth Division Directors (DD) will be responsible for training program managers, and clinical staff, in the adopted PPG's and ensuring the PPG's are used routinely with clients, when applicable. DD's will be responsible for ensuring all applicable client's medical records show documentation of the use of the PPG's by each clinician.

See related policy C-3.07 QAPI.

Right to Change and/or Terminate Policy:

Reasonable efforts will be made to keep employees informed of any changes in the policy; however, WMH reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to amend, replace, and/or terminate this policy at any time.