



Center for Mental Health Services
Center for Substance Abuse
Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse
Treatment
Rockville MD 20857

March 23, 2001

Dear Colleague,

At the upcoming meeting of your MHSIP Regional User Group (RUG) there will be a discussion of the Decision Support 2000+ draft data standards proposed for the enrollment and encounter data sets. Decision Support 2000+ is a set of data standards for mental health and an integrated information infrastructure that will help stakeholders answer key questions and make critical decisions to improve the quality of care. The Decision Support 2000+ data standards fully conform to the new HIPAA standards; using Decision Support 2000+ will ensure that all HIPAA requirements are met.

Decision Support 2000+ has several components: population, enrollment, encounter, financial, organizational, and human resources data; performance indicators, report cards, and outcome measures; and fidelity measures for clinical and system guidelines. Development of standards for these components has proceeded in a modular fashion, beginning with enrollment and encounter data, and has focused on the elements that are most critical for the entire field (core data elements). We are now working on draft standards for enrollment and encounter data of interest to particular stakeholder and user groups (stakeholder-specific data elements) and on the other components of Decision Support 2000+. Draft standards for the core data elements for enrollment and encounter data are now complete and ready for your review.

Enclosed are materials for the upcoming RUG discussions of Decision Support 2000+:

- A background statement describing Decision Support 2000+;
- Excel spreadsheets with the draft core enrollment and encounter data sets;
- A table showing how the draft core enrollment and encounter data elements map to other national data sets;
- A table showing how the FN11 data elements are addressed in the core and stakeholder-specific enrollment and encounter data sets; and
- A table showing how the CMHS Uniform Reporting System (URS) data elements are addressed in the draft core and stakeholder-specific core enrollment and encounter data sets.

Please review these materials and give us your feedback during the discussion at the meeting and in writing. It would be most helpful if you could write your comments directly on hard copies of the tables and fax them to us at 617-349-2675. We welcome all comments, but are particularly interested in responses to the following questions:

- Do you agree with the proposed core data elements?
- Do you agree with the proposed stakeholder-specific data elements?
- If you do not agree with the proposed core or stakeholder-specific data elements, what data elements would you add or remove?
- Do you agree with the categories proposed for the proposed core data elements and their definitions?
- If not, what categories would you add or remove and how would you define them?

For an in-depth description of Decision Support 2000+ and its component data sets, please see the Requirements Analysis on the MHSIP website (www.mhsip.org). A member of the Decision Support 2000+ development team will attend the meeting either in person or by telephone.

We very much appreciate your review of these materials and are eager to hear your thoughts at the RUG meeting discussion. We look forward to receiving your written comments and continuing to work with you on these critical issues in the evolution of data standards for mental health. Please fax written comments to Sarah Minden at 617-349-2675.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Henderson
Sarah Minden
Sharon Guidera
Nancy Callahan
Susan Foster
Megan Boughton
Ronald Manderscheid