

The Prescriber Post

Volume 1, issue 2

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Welcome to The Prescriber Post.

VBH-PA is publishing this newsletter in an effort to effectively communicate with all individuals that conduct evaluations of children and adolescents that result in a prescription for behavioral health services. We hope through this newsletter to keep you informed regarding best practices, policies, bulletins, trainings, meetings and other timely information. This issue's topics include upcoming meetings and reminders of current VBH-PA policies. If you are a BHRS or other facility based provider, please ensure that your evaluators/prescribers receive this publication.

- **With the busy summer vacation time soon approaching, please remember to adjust your schedules accordingly in order to submit your completed evaluations before going on vacation to ensure that you meet the 7 business day requirement.**
- **Please be considerate when meeting with families and try to minimize interruptions, such as taking phone calls, while performing an initial or a re-evaluation.**
- **Please be sure to educate yourself on community and natural supports to offer greater latitude when making recommendations for services and supports.**
- **Physicians and licensed psychologists who conduct evaluations for children and adolescents with behavioral health needs compounded by developmental disorders, such as autistic disorder and other pervasive developmental disorders, should know about the availability of a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) when prescribing BHR Services. Please reference OMHSAS Bulletin (OMHSAS-09-01) issued on January 9, 2009.**
- **When prescribing the initial Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA), please remember to be specific with the number of BSC hours to conduct the FBA; with the average being twelve to fifteen hours over a four to six week period to complete.**
- **SAVE THE DATES:**
 - Quarterly BHRS Provider Summit: 9/9/09 9am – Noon, Four Points Sheraton 100 Sheraton Drive Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA 15601.**
 - Quarterly BHRS Provider Summit: 9/18/09 9am– Noon, Hampton Inn & Suites, Grove City, 4 Holiday Blvd. Mercer, PA 16137.**

And did you know???

The highest point in Pennsylvania is lower than the lowest point in Colorado. (Mt. Davis 3215 feet, the Arkansas River 3315 feet)