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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 5 TELEPHONE TRAINING TO FOCUS ON “RECOVERY AUDIT CONTRACTORS: WHAT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS TO KNOW”

(Washington, D.C., July 15, 2009)...To help those working in hospitals providing psychiatric and addiction treatment services, the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) has organized a special two-hour telephone conference on “**Recovery Audit Contractors (RACs): What Behavioral Health Needs to Know.**” The training will be held **Wednesday, August 5, 2009**, from **2pm to 4pm Eastern**.

The faculty includes **Connie Leonard**, director of the Division of Recovery Audit Operations within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and **Don May**, vice president, policy, American Hospital Association (AHA), to help hospital leaders understand – and be prepared for – RAC reviews. On the call, get a better understanding of what the system is intended to do, what specific steps RACs must follow, what your organization needs to do to be ready for RAC reviews, what claims may and may not be reviewed, what to anticipate in complex claims review, what review criteria the RACs will use, the overpayment/underpayment process, the appeals process, and what questions to ask along the way.

In the initial RAC demonstration program, almost \$1 billion in improper payments were identified. Four permanent RAC contractors (assigned by geographic regions) have been named, and a national rollout plan is in place. All states are scheduled to be under the RAC program by 2010. The impact of the program has wide-ranging implications for all healthcare providers. This call provides an opportunity to ask the experts questions **focused specifically on the concerns of behavioral health providers** and to hear how RAC reviews are affecting behavioral health peers.

HOW TO REGISTER

The teleconference format is designed to enable maximum participation at minimal cost. Because registration fees are per incoming line (not per participant), registered sites can have as many people listen in on speakerphone as they wish. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. The cost of the two-hour teleconference is \$250 (or \$175 for NAPHS members). American Express, MasterCard, and Visa are accepted.

To register online, go to <http://www.naphs.org/Teleconference/RACs.html> or call 202/393-6700, ext. 106. A compact disc will also be available *after* the teleconferences for \$250 (or \$175 for NAPHS members).

ABOUT NAPHS

NAPHS advocates for behavioral health and represents provider systems that are committed to the delivery of responsive, accountable, and clinically effective prevention, treatment, and care for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults with mental and substance use disorders. Its members are behavioral healthcare provider organizations that own or manage more than 600 specialty psychiatric hospitals, general hospital psychiatric and addiction treatment units and behavioral healthcare divisions, residential treatment facilities, youth services organizations, and extensive outpatient networks. The association was founded in 1933.

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