
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TELEPHONE TRAINING TO FOCUS ON
“MENTAL HEALTH PARITY IMPLEMENTATION: NEW REGULATIONS EXPLAINED BY THE NATION’S
LEADING ANALYSTS AND EXPERTS”**

(Washington, D.C., February 17, 2010)...In the February 2 *Federal Register*, the federal government published regulations governing implementation of the *Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act*. The federal parity law requires that any group health plan that includes mental health and substance use disorder benefits along with standard medical and surgical coverage must treat them equally in terms of out-of-pocket costs, benefit limits, and practices such as prior authorization and utilization review.

To help the clinical and administrative leadership of behavioral healthcare organizations understand how the regulations may be changing marketplace dynamics and the implications for consumers, the National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems (NAPHS) has organized a special **two-part telephone conference** on “**Mental Health Parity Implementation: New Regulations Explained by the Nation’s Leading Analysts and Experts.**” Part I will be held on **Thursday, March 18, 2010**, and Part II will be held on **Wednesday, March 24, 2010**. The calls will run from **2pm to 4pm Eastern** each day, offering a total of four hours of training.

Hear the thinking of leaders from all of the key constituencies working to implement the federal parity law. Get insight into how health plans, managed care, and benefits consultants intend to help employers meet parity requirements. Learn anticipated and already implemented benefit design changes. Get ideas for how your organization can work with employers and managed care to best serve individuals with complex mental and addictive disorders. Get practical ideas for helping employees and consumers understand the law and its impact.

The faculty includes:

- **Mark Covall**, president/CEO, National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems;
- **Henry Harbin, M.D.**, independent consultant; former CEO, Magellan Health Services;
- **Stephen P. Melek, FSA, MAAA**, consulting actuary, Milliman;
- **Irvin L. (Sam) Muszynski**, director of healthcare systems and financing, American Psychiatric Association;
- **Douglas Nemecek, M.D., M.B.A.**, senior medical director, Cigna;
- **Joan M. Pearson, Ph.D.**, independent healthcare consultant; formerly principal, Towers Perrin’s Health and Welfare Benefits Practice; and
- **Andrew Sperling**, director, federal legislative advocacy, National Alliance on Mental Illness.

The moderator is **Jeri Davis**, president, Jeri Davis International Healthcare Consultants and Recruiters (JDi).

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 a single speakerphone as they wish. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. The cost of the four-hour teleconference is \$500 (or \$350 for NAPHS members). American Express, MasterCard, and Visa are accepted.

To register online, go to www.naphs.org/quality/parity_initiatives or call 202/393-6700, ext. 107. A compact disc will also be available *after* the teleconferences for \$500 (or \$350 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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