



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
11 State House Station, Marquardt Building, 2nd Floor, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Children's Services

April 25, 2005

Dear Mental Health Provider:

I am writing to clarify changes regarding the certification and training requirements for Other Qualified Mental Health Professionals/Private Non Medical Institution services as outlined on page 8 of the **Desktop Reference Guide to MaineCare OQMHP Certifications for Children's Services** dated June 2003. The Guide may be found in the OQMHP section of the Muskie School's Center for Learning website at www.cfl-muskie.org. The service is referenced in Chapter II, Section 65, of the MaineCare Benefits Manual.

As you are aware, applicants who do not possess a Bachelor's degree in a specific area outlined in the **Desktop Reference Guide** may apply for the OQMHP/PMNI certificate if they or their agency provide documentation of training in nine specific areas. The Department currently requires that the training be completed within 90 days from the date of hire, and the certificate is retroactive to that date **if** the training is completed in that timeframe.

The majority of this training addresses the competencies that are critical to the health and safety of children who reside in a residential treatment program. As such, effective July 1st, 2005, the Department will require all applicants to complete training in CPR and First Aid **before** they provide any direct services to children. The Department will continue to authorize OQMHP/PNMI certification when the training has been completed within the 90 day time period, so this change should not interrupt the billing process. In the unusual case that the completion of the training exceeds 90 days, the OQMHP/PNMI certificate will be effective on the date that the training is complete. This effective date will be added to the OQMHP/PNMI certificate.

Thank you for your cooperation in meeting the health and safety needs of children who reside in residential treatment programs in the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

Joan Smyrski, Director
Children's Behavioral Health Services
DHHS

Cc: James Beougher, DHHS
Janice Daley, Muskie School, Center for Learning
John Dauteuil, BMS, DHHS
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