



State of New Jersey  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

# NEWSLETTER

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**TO:** Providers of Partial Hospital Services - For Action  
Health Maintenance Organizations - For Information Only

**SUBJECT:** Acute Partial Hospitalization Eligibility Requirements

**EFFECTIVE:** Immediately

**PURPOSE:** To advise providers of Acute Partial Hospital (APH) and Partial Hospital (PH) services that there has been a change in the eligibility requirements for admission to APH and PH as well as for the certification of admission requirements.

**BACKGROUND:** The eligibility requirements for APH require a Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score between 30 and 60 and PH requires a GAF score between 30 and 70. The receiving program was responsible to ensure the client met this GAF score to certify the admission.

**ACTION:** The regulations in NJAC 10:52A specifically require a GAF score using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders' (DSM) DSM-IV-TR in determining a client's GAF score. With the advent of DSM V in 2013, the American Psychiatric Association eliminated the multi-axial system for mental disorders. The GAF scale was removed from the DSM-V because of a perceived lack of reliability and poor clinical utility. As a result of this change, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services will no longer require the GAF scale in determining eligibility for partial hospitalization programs. The remaining clinical criteria used for admission and certification of services remain unchanged.

Please call the Office of Customer Service at 609-631-4641 with any questions.

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