



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Field Operations Memo 2009-6 A
July 27, 2009

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From:  John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: TAFDC and EAEDC – Nurse Practitioner Added to the Definition of Competent Medical Authorities: A Clarification

Background

Chapter 305 of the Acts of 2008 added a new chapter 176R to the General Laws entitled “Consumer Choice of Nurse Practitioner Services.” Under this law, patients may choose to be diagnosed or treated by a nurse practitioner. This must be recognized by insurance carriers, including MassHealth.

State Letter 1345 (effective February 6, 2009) added nurse practitioner to the definition of a competent medical authority. Field Operations Memo 2009-6 informed TAO staff that effective February 6, 2009 any form requiring the signature of a competent medical authority can be completed and signed by a nurse practitioner.

Clarification

The title of Nurse Practitioner also includes the following titles: Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurse (MS APRN) or a Psychiatric Nurse Mental Health Clinical Specialist. These are Nurse Practitioners for psychiatric patients. Provided the disability described on the form meets the requirements for EAEDC or TAFDC, any form requiring the signature of a competent medical authority can be completed and signed by an Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurse or a Psychiatric Nurse Mental Health Clinical Specialist and will be an acceptable proof of a *psychiatric or mental* disability.

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.
