February 2006

Assessment

If it is determined (in a Medi-Cal case) during the assessment period that there is no medical necessity then the case must be closed as soon as possible. The assessment **MUST** not continue just because we have 60 days to complete the assessment.

For example if a clinician determines in the second session that there is <u>no</u> medical necessity then the case needs to be closed. Do not continue to provide assessment sessions if by the second session the documentation states that there is no medical necessity. Given that the clinician determines that there is no medical necessity during the assessment period then an NOA-A would be given to the consumer.

<u>Client Service Plan:</u> Objectives must be very specific. Having very specific objectives helps the clinician and the consumer know exactly what the focus of treatment is and be able to measure change. For example it is more specific and measurable to say "client will interact with peers at school at least once per week" than to say "client will be less withdrawn" (this is not a measurable objective).

Another example would be to say "client will use his/her words when angry (at least two times per week) instead of destroying property" than to say "client will express his/her feelings." In addition the progress notes must reflect treatment towards these specific objectives. Reminder: the specific objectives are the small steps to reach the ultimate goal/s.