

THIS IS ONLY A SAMPLE
PLEASE WRITE YOUR OWN BASED ON THE SPECIFIC NEEDS/SITUATION
OF YOUR PRACTICE

**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS
AND
PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN**

POLICY:

_____ shall ensure that members receive
Practice/Practitioner's Name
continuity and coordination of their behavioral health and medical care.

PURPOSE:

_____ shall ensure the continuity and
Practice/Practitioner's Name
coordination of care for all members through the exchange of information in an effective, timely and confidential manner, including member approved communications between behavioral health practitioners and providers and primary care physicians (PCP).

GUIDELINES:

1. A member who presents for behavioral health treatment will be asked to sign a release of information to their PCP to allow the exchange of information between the behavioral health provider and the PCP. Documentation will be noted in the member's clinical record if the member refuses to sign for a release of the information.
2. The behavioral health practitioner/provider shall contact the PCP following completion of the initial assessment and diagnostic formulation as well as the initial treatment plan. Thereafter, the behavioral health practitioner/provider will communicate to the PCP, when psychotropic medications are prescribed or discontinued, there is a significant change in the member's clinical condition, diagnosis or prognosis or the member is hospitalized for behavioral health and/or substance abuse.
3. Communication between the behavioral health provider and the PCP may occur via mail, fax or telephone call. There will be documentation in the clinical record that such communication occurred.