

August 21, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Release of Primary Care + Behavioral Health “Information Sharing Form”

A communication form that will enable **better collaboration** between **primary care** and **behavioral health** providers has been developed by a team of local experts and parents[†]. For children who receive both services, team-based and coordinated care is essential. According to research by Dr. Savithri Nageswaran, caregivers of children with complex conditions “expressed the need for more information sharing and quality communication between providers”.[†]

Pediatric/family medicine doctors and behavioral health providers are encouraged to **use these forms to give and receive information** essential to improving quality of care.

Benefits to Behavioral Health Agencies:	Benefits to Primary Care Doctors:	Benefits to Patients & Families:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fulfills state CABHA rules requiring behavioral health agencies to have communication with a patient’s primary care provider ➤ Ensures team-based care ➤ Establishes clear expectations for medication management ➤ Identifies contraindicated medications and reduces duplicate medications and requests for labs ➤ Can help simplify complicated medication regimens for patients who have difficulty managing their daily medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Helps physicians attain crisis plans ➤ Assists physicians in identifying behavioral health concerns that may impede the patient’s capacity for self-management ➤ Supports patient compliance with referrals to behavioral health ➤ Ensures team-based care ➤ Establishes clear expectations for medication management ➤ Up-to-date, concise information on patient’s progress with behavioral health services ➤ Identifies contraindicated medications and reduces duplicate medications and requests for labs ➤ Can simplify complicated medication regimens for patients who have difficulty managing daily medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Relieves communication burden from families ➤ Ensures providers are knowledgeable about patient services ➤ Alleviates confusion about medication management, and who parents go to for prescription refills ➤ Demonstrates the value of provider collaboration for the patient & family

Where can providers find the forms?

The pdf version of these 2 forms can be found at www.YouFindServices.org. Click on “Resources” at the top of the page. Then click on the heading “Mental Health/Behavioral Health”. The 2 documents will be in the list on the left. (Titled: “Info_Sharing_Form_BehavH_to_PCP” and “Info_Sharing_Form_PCP_to_BehavH”)

How can providers use the forms?

1. First, ensure that you follow your agency policy regarding release of information.
2. Download the pdf from www.YouFindServices.org.
3. Fill out your half of the form & fax to the client/patient’s provider.

*Representatives from: Families Together, Inc., Blue Sky Pediatrics, Community Care of WNC, Family Preservation Services, ABC Pediatrics, Mountain Area Pediatrics, Western Highlands, Mission Children’s Hospital, Buncombe County Department of Health, and parent volunteers

[†]“Caregiver Voices: Coordinating Care for Children with Complex Chronic Conditions” by Shannon L. Golden, MA1 and Savithri Nageswaran, MD, MPH1; *Clinical Pediatrics* 51(8) 723–729