



## **PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY ADMISSIONS**

Dear Provider:

On April 7, 2011, the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) issued Director's Letter No. 5-K to health care service plans (health plans) concerning the care and treatment of patients with psychiatric emergencies. The letter reminded health plans of a provider's duty to notify a patient's health plan or contracted medical provider of the need for a transfer for admission to a hospital psychiatric unit or acute psychiatric hospital for care or treatment solely necessary to relieve or eliminate a psychiatric emergency medical condition,<sup>[1]</sup> as required by Health and Safety Code section 1317.4a. The letter also discussed the separate emergency services requirements of Health and Safety Code section 1371.4, including a health plan's obligation to reimburse providers for emergency services and care provided to its enrollees, and the prohibition against requiring that a provider obtain authorization prior to the provision of emergency services and care necessary to stabilize an enrollee's emergency medical condition.

The purpose of this letter is to inform providers of Easy Choice Health Plan's contact information per Health and Safety Code section 1317.4a, in order for providers to notify the health plan of a transfer for admission to relieve or eliminate a psychiatric emergency medical condition. The provider notification provisions of section 1317.4a do not require providers to seek authorization, except as otherwise required by law, to provide necessary emergency services and care to a patient who has a psychiatric emergency medical condition. (Health & Safety Code, § 1317.4a, subd. (f).)

Following is Easy Choice Health Plan's contact information which is also located on the back of the member's ID card:

- Easy Choice Health Plan Toll Free#: (866) 999-3945
- Easy Choice Health Plan website: [www.easychoicehealthplan.com](http://www.easychoicehealthplan.com)

Thank you for your cooperation with this matter in servicing our members.

Sincerely,

Easy Choice Health Plan

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<sup>[1]</sup> "Psychiatric emergency medical condition" is defined by Health & Saf. Code, § 1317.1, subd. (k). The definitions set forth in section 1371.1 control the construction of Health & Saf. Code 1371.4.