Ethics and Risk Management in the Age of The Affordable Care Act: Everything You Didn’t Want to Know and Were Afraid to Ask

Presented by:

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DoubleTree Hotel Monroeville
101 Mall Road
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Registration opens at 8:00 am
The workshop is from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm and includes lunch
This facility is fully accessible.

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Workshop Sequence VI diverges from our typical approach to risk management training. Rather than focusing primarily on specific risk issues in psychological practice and strategies that minimize them, this workshop will focus on ethical and risk management issues as they relate to the broader changes in psychological practice that we and other observers believe are and will be generated by the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Depending on how successfully health care reform is implemented, the changes to psychological practice are likely to be profound, particularly for those psychologists in third party reimbursed private practices. We have already been buffeted by the industrialization and external management of the health care industry that has reduced both income and job satisfaction while increasing the administrative burdens of our work. The ACA is aimed at increasing efficiency and efficacy in an attempt to reward results rather than procedures through more integrated medical homes that will control decisions about care.

There is some good news here. There seems to be a real understanding that mental health and physical health are intimately related and that treating them as separate “silos” results in greater costs and less effective service. Health care insurance will be available to many new patients, many of whom are poor and disadvantaged and many of whom will have substantial mental health needs. But this reorganization will require major changes in traditional methods and business plans of private practitioners, and we believe it is crucial for all psychologists to begin to plan for this change. So this workshop will attempt to describe the changes we and other observers see coming and some preliminary thoughts about strategies for dealing with these changes. Our problem is that while we are pretty sure these changes will take place, and they will not be sudden, no one can predict how soon they will occur and the exact shape they will take. But good risk management requires facing these trends knowledgably and beginning to develop adaptive strategies.

In addition, this workshop will provide an updated focus on the changes in practice that will result from the digital information revolution. The ACA will require practitioners to digitize their records with interactive capacities so that care can be more effectively coordinated. More patients will want to communicate electronically, and there will be a great expansion of telepsychological services, both direct and adjunctive. There will need to be changes in the ethics code and other regulations to separate private from professional activities, to allow different methods of marketing and practice promotion, and to deal with the complex issues presented by interjurisdictional practice.

This workshop will provide what we hope will be a beginning conversation about a process that will be with us for a number of years—changes which present dangers and opportunities for the profession of psychology.
Objectives

• Summarize the basic principles of The Trust’s Risk Management Strategy
• Identify three major changes in the organization and delivery of healthcare services that will impact psychological practice
• Develop a strategy for transitioning to and working with electronic health record systems
• Develop documentation strategies for interacting with medical homes and other medical healthcare delivery systems
• Describe three boundary implications of technology and steps to address them
• Summarize the structure through which DHHS is increasing its HIPAA enforcement processes and their implications for practitioners
• Name four issues which psychologists must address in the process of planning for retirement

Continuing Education Credits

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: Those who attend the workshop and complete the Trust evaluation form will receive six continuing education credits. Please note that APA CE rules require that we only give credit to those who attend the entire workshop. Those arriving more than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time or leaving before the workshop is completed will not receive CE credits and will not be eligible for the 15% premium discount described below.

Register online at www.papsy.org

Eligibility for Insurance Premium Discounts

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