



Network Communication Bulletin #005

To: All Network Providers
From: Cindy Ehlers, MS, LPC, Vice President of Clinical Operations
Date: September 10, 2017
Subject: Joint Communication Bulletin 247: "North Carolina Interventions (NCI) to be Released to the Public Domain July 1, 2017"

In follow up to *LME-MCO Communication #J247, North Carolina Interventions (NCI) to be Released to the Public Domain July 1, 2017 dated April 28, 2017* (attached for reference), we have received inquiries specific to an example provided in the content of the bulletin. The intent of this communication is to provide additional clarification in reference to the following statement:

Top of Page 2 in JCB dated April 28, 2017: Before the expiration date of a staff person's certification in 2018, that person would need to be trained and certified in a new approved curriculum. For example, a staff person whose final NCI certification expires in January 2018 would need to have completed training and obtained certification in the new curriculum before the end of January 2018.

Clarification, to the above, is as follows:

1. Participants (this does not apply to Trainers only Trainees) may be certified or recertified utilizing the current NCI curriculum up to December 30, 2018 and all certifications, regardless of the training date, will expire as of 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2018.
2. The Division wants to ensure there is no "training gap" for any staff specific to being appropriately certified in an approved curriculum.

The Q and A will be updated to reflect the above clarification.

The process for curriculum review by DMH is presently occurring within the established timeframe, and the continued expectation is that any curriculum submitted will be processed within the 45-business day window.

The Department continues to focus on streamlining processes that will be more efficient, effective, ensures the best use of all available resources, and will result in positive outcomes for individuals supported across the mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse service system.

Please direct any questions to DMH.NCI@dhhs.nc.gov.



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LME-MCO Communication Bulletin #J247

Date: April 28, 2017

To: LME-MCOs

From: Mabel McGlothlen, Team Leader for System Performance and Project Management, DMH/DD/SAS and Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, Community Based Services, DMA

Subject: North Carolina Interventions (NCI) to be Released to the Public Domain July 1, 2017

This bulletin provides LME-MCOs, providers and any facility using North Carolina Interventions (NCI) as a restrictive intervention with the benchmarks and guidelines for the release of NCI.

NCI is a curriculum, created and supported by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS), to train staff who provide direct services in the use of de-escalation strategies to prevent the use of restraints and seclusion, and to prevent injury to the people we serve and to the workforce when restrictive interventions are used.

Effective July 1, 2017, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will relinquish all rights to the NCI training program. DMH/DD/SAS will continue to review and approve restrictive intervention curricula in accordance with 10A NCAC 27E.0107 (Training on Alternatives to Restrictive Interventions) and 10A NCAC 27E.0108 (Training in the Use of Seclusion, Physical Restraints and Isolation Time-Out).

With the release of NCI into the public domain, providers currently using NCI will need to select another curriculum as an alternative to NCI to train their staff in the use of prevention and restrictive intervention techniques. A provider could choose from the list of other curricula approved by DMH/DD/SAS or develop their own curriculum and submit it to DMH/DD/SAS for approval. The NCI curriculum, which can be

adapted and modified, is attached. The division will not provide any technical assistance on curriculum design. All curricula submitted to the division for review and approval will be evaluated against compliance with the rule requirements. The application is attached.

NCI Instructor Trainer re-certifications will be extended to June 30, 2018. All certified NCI instructors will have the opportunity to be re-certified in 2017 for one year, with an expiration date in 2018. Before the expiration date of a staff person’s certification in 2018, that person would need to be trained and certified in a new approved curriculum. *For example, a staff person whose final NCI certification expires in January 2018 would need to have completed training and obtained certification in the new curriculum before the end of January 2018.*

Providers that are currently using NCI should notify the LME-MCOs with which they contract of the change to a new curriculum. Providers continue to be responsible for assuring their staff is trained and certified in the chosen curriculum and for ensuring adherence to the clinical and administrative requirements for the use of prevention and restrictive intervention strategies, including reporting incidents involving the use of restrictive interventions to the LME-MCO, Division of Health Service Regulation, Division of Social Services, to the NC Incident Response Improvement System (IRIS) and to their national accreditation agency as applicable.

Curriculums will be reviewed within 45 business days. Curriculums will be processed as expeditiously as possible; however, as the volume of curriculums increases, the timeline for review and approval may need to be adjusted.

To assist in planning for the phase-out of NCI and the transition to a new curriculum, the following timeline is provided:

Important Dates for Releasing NCI to the Public Domain and Timeline for Choosing an Alternative Curriculum

Dates	Benchmarks
May 1, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Bulletin announcing the release of NCI to the public domain will be posted. • The following documents will be posted on the NCI web page: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NCI Curriculum ○ Application for the submission of new curricula to DMH/DD/SAS for review and approval ○ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) <p>https://www.ncdhhs.gov/providers/provider-info/mental-health/training-information/prevention-use-restraints-seclusion-training</p>

July 1, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMH/DD/SAS will release the NCI curriculum to the public domain. • NCI Instructor Trainer re-certifications will be extended for one year. • DMH/DD/SAS will begin to accept new curriculums.
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Dates	Benchmarks
October 31, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waivers for approval of an NCI Instructor at an agency will not be approved after this date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waivers are only granted to provider agencies and must be requested by the CEO of the agency. ○ Waivers are not granted to individuals. • Certifications under a waiver must be completed within 60 days or the waiver is forfeited and will expire on or before December 31, 2018.
December 31, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recertification of Instructors in NCI will be granted after this date.
June 30, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCI Instructor Trainer certifications will expire on this date.
December 31, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCI Instructor certifications will expire on or before this date based on their last certification. • The Transition period ends. • All providers shall have selected and implemented a new curriculum as an alternative to NCI.

An FAQ document is attached. Additional information and updates will be periodically posted. New curricula will be added to the List of Approved Curricula as the review process gets underway.

Please send any questions regarding the process for transitioning to a new curriculum:
DMH.NCI@dhhs.nc.gov.

Attachments:

- [NCI Q and A Final to be posted-042517.pdf](#)
- [NCI Handouts - Part A_042517.pdf](#)
- [NCI Instructor's Guide_042517.pdf](#)
- [NCI Part A - Prevention_042517.pdf](#)
- [NCI Part B - Core_042517.pdf](#)
- [NCI Part C - Core Plus.pdf](#)
- [2 Appli for Approval of Curriculum for Trng in Prev and Rest Interv Strategies.xlsx](#)

Previous bulletins can be accessed at:

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins>

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