



PBH UM/ACCESS Communication Bulletin FY- 1112-UM-01

To: PBH Network Providers of SCS - Behavior
From: Dr. Barbara Agnello, DD Clinical Director
CC: Dr. Craig Hummel, Medical Director
Steve Tomlinson, COO

Date: July 5, 2011

RE: Essential Elements for Graphed Data

To date, a review of behavioral data submitted by providers of SCS-Behavior indicates inconsistent data intervals depicted on graphs. This creates a concern because the purpose of a line graph is to reflect a change in a target behavior relative to a point in time or an environmental situation. Both timeframes and intervals represented on a line graph need to be consistent. Graphed data representing unequal intervals are difficult to analyze due to the unequal comparisons. Graphs with unequal intervals potentially compromise the process of making data-based decisions because trends may not be accurate.

Essential activities for providers of SCS-Behavior include data analysis and data monitoring to ensure efficacy of intervention. It is important to note that graphs should not continue indefinitely when the data indicates that change is warranted. Changes should be clearly labeled on the graph to reflect the data-based decision that occurred.

As of August 1, 2011, all graphs submitted to UM need to reflect equal time intervals and be clearly labeled following the basic elements of line graphs. The basic elements of line graphs include:

- Horizontal Axis with Label
- Vertical Axis with Label
- Phase/Condition Change Lines and Labels
- Data Points
- Data Paths
- Figure Legend

Page 110, Figure 6.2 in *Applied Behavior Analysis*, Cooper, Heron & Heward (1987) offers a reference for Line Graphs. Please note that an updated version was published in 2007 that can also be used as a reference. If you do not have access to either of these references, please contact UM.

PBH offers opportunities for continued training for providers. Several training and consensus building events are already established to offer providers access to Best Practices and Industry Standards. These community advisory groups and technical assistance opportunities include: Positive Behavior Support Training, IDD Provider Meetings, and IDD Work Group. All IDD Providers receive communication regarding such events. Providers are welcomed to staff difficult cases with Utilization Management to

receive technical assistance and remain HIPAA compliant. Please note that there are other training initiatives under review by PBH for providers of SCS-Behavior.