



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
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**LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J414**

**DATE:** May 9, 2022

**TO:** Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

**FROM:** Saarah Waleed, Interim Assistant Director of Programs and Policy, DMH/DD/SAS  
Deb Goda, Associate Director, Behavioral Health and I/DD, NC Medicaid

**SUBJECT:** Update on Resuming the Tool for Measurement of Assertive Community Treatment (TMACT) and Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Fidelity Evaluations

On April 23, 2020, and Oct. 2, 2020, Joint Communication Bulletins [#J361](#) and [#J378](#) informed LME-MCOs that the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) had suspended in-person TMACT and IPS fidelity evaluations and that the Interim Evidence-Based Practice Quality Review Protocol would be utilized while TMACT and IPS fidelity evaluations were suspended.

On Aug. 2, 2021, [Joint Communication Bulletin #J398](#) informed LME-MCOs that all in-person TMACT and IPS fidelity evaluations would resume on Jan. 1, 2022, with the expectation that Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and IPS teams would resume providing services face-to-face in the community.

**DMH/DD/SAS and NC Medicaid have extended COVID-19 flexibilities through June 30, 2022, which includes the ability to bill for telehealth contacts.**

- Since providers may continue to utilize telehealth, *fidelity evaluations will be postponed until July 1, 2022.*
- The additional time will allow providers the opportunity to identify and address issues related to workforce development and retention.
- *The fidelity evaluation process will resume July 1, 2022.*

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In the interim, the UNC Institute for Best Practices will reach out to providers to identify areas for technical assistance, prioritizing fidelity practices most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and workforce challenges.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Herring at [margaret.herring@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:margaret.herring@dhhs.nc.gov) or 984-236-5057 at DMH/DD/SAS or June Freeman at [June.freeman@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:June.freeman@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-527-7646 at NC Medicaid.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins).

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