ITPS Release Notes
PND Version 4.6

Stu Forman
January 27, 2008

Version 4.6 of ITPS contains enhancements designed to help with compliance issues and to streamline work with regard to both treatment planning and groups.

Treatment Planning

The treatment planning changes will make our electronic plans better aligned with CMS expectations. The changes pertain to the screen in the treatment planning area where the Goal is edited and to the new Service Plan report.

First, let me make a suggestion that will result in printed MTP's that you (and CMS) might find easier to digest...

> If possible, associate each Barrier with one, rather than multiple, Goals. Otherwise, in our new printed format, the Barrier – along with all the associated treatments – will be repeated multiple times. One way to accomplish this is to consolidate Goals (and place the combined Goal in the Domain that seems most significant). Another approach would be to list a given Barrier only under the Goal where it is a major Barrier. (We all understand, for example that disorganized thinking can interfere with almost anything; consider listing it only under the Goal where it has the most relevance.)

Goal edit screen

Note that this pertains only to the screen where you edit the Goal in the MTP area (not in the Functional Assessment). This is because the content of the new field is not relevant to the Functional Assessment process. The idea is that we are being asked to specify at least one long-term, discharge-oriented objective for each of the patient's more recovery-oriented Goals. We have been stressing the patient-centered aspects of the Goal, and have asked that if possible, it be stated in the patient's own words (e.g., "I want my own apartment.") We have not demanded that this be measurable, and would thus accept a Goal like "I don't want to be depressed anymore." CMS wants to see a long-term objective (or Goal) dealing either with discharge or (in the case of an expected very long hospitalization) a time frame of about a year. Examples:

> In a patient who might be discharged in 6 months: "Patient will be discharged to his own apartment within 6 months."

> In a patient expected to be in the hospital for many years because of legal entanglements: "Patient will be transferred to a less restricted unit within one year."

Service Plan report

When you print this report, you will now see the long-term objectives included. The Goals as we have been defining them will also appear. If there are none, the system will assume that the MTP

was created prior to this addition, and the new field will not appear. To accommodate people who have made adjustments to the Goals field over the last few days, the label will be slightly adjusted in an attempt to accommodate the situation.

The target dates associated with our shorter-term objectives were inadvertently omitted from the Service Plan report; these will now appear. A statement concerning electronic signatures was being printed on the report; since we are not yet using this function, this is now suppressed. More signature lines have been added, for your signing pleasure.

Groups

The much-anticipated curriculum function has now been added (primarily for psychoeducational groups, but sometimes relevant for psychosocial rehabilitation groups). For groups with an established curriculum (i.e., things that are taught in particular sessions), this information can now be stored within the system. This curriculum can be printed. (From the Main Menu, click on Administration and then on Manage Groups; you'll see the new button.)

A group curriculum consists of a series of sessions, each containing the following:

> The session number of the group
> The title for the session of the group
> A description of the session of the group
> Learning objectives for the session of the group

The system does not require that both a description and learning objectives are completed.

The most significant aspect of this addition is that curriculum information can be automatically added to the group notes of each group member:

> After you record group attendance, you end up on a screen where you can record comments that are inserted in each group note. There is now a new button, Insert Curriculum, on this screen. If you click on this, you can then select the particular session for which you want to insert curriculum information. This will be added to the general comments that are then inserted into each note.

In addition to leveraging the time you spend creating a curriculum, this system should facilitate the process of new people taking over a group or filling in for an individual session where the leader is unavailable.

Will the wonders never cease?