

# PROVIDER ALERT

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES  
General Assistance Behavioral Health Program (GABHP)

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## IMPORTANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Issued on June 21, 2007

### Change In Timely Filing Claims Submission Rules for Pending Eligible SAGA Individuals Effective 7/18/07

Beginning with claims submitted on and after 7/18/07, the timely filing period for claims submission will be increased to 365 days from the date of service for individuals identified as "pending eligible" for State-Administered General Assistance (SAGA) at the time the authorization was requested. ***The timely filing period for all other claims will remain 180 days.***

"Pending eligibility" is defined as one of the following:

- The individual meets the general qualifications for eligibility to SAGA but has not yet applied
- The individual has filed an application with the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services and is awaiting a determination of eligibility
- The individual has previously been eligible for SAGA benefits, but the benefits have lapsed or been terminated

As indicated in the GA Behavioral Health Program Provider Manual, it is the primary responsibility of the provider to verify eligibility for SAGA each time there is a request for behavioral health services. Authorizations issued for behavioral health services are a confirmation that service necessity criteria have been met and are not a confirmation of eligibility or a guarantee of payment.

No special flagging of claims submitted on and after July 18, 2007 is needed.

If you have questions regarding the new timely filing guidelines, please contact the ABH Provider Relations Department at (800) 606-3677, Option 3. More information will be also be distributed in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document on July 10, 2007.