

Dear BHACA Community,

We're wishing you a happy, meaningful holiday season!

**BHACA Blast #26 Headlines:**

- **Save the Date: Continuing Education Classes for Behavioral Health Billing Staff** Offered by the Network of Behavioral Health Providers and the Center for Healthcare Professionals, Coleman College of Health Sciences, Houston Community College!

BHACA is proud to have joined with the faculty and staff at Coleman College to offer a series of billing classes including a fundamentals overview, and specialized sessions on claims denials, credentialing, the ICD-10 and other key issues. The first class in fundamentals will run on three successive Thursdays, Jan. 22, 29, and Feb. 5. Registration through HCC opens on January 1 and class size is limited. The cost of the class is \$85.00 (not including books). Please contact Elizabeth at [nbhp.elizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:nbhp.elizabeth@gmail.com) for more information and to start the official registration process with HCC.

- **On the BHACA Blog** we have shared an example of successful advocacy re. adding more behavioral health functionality to an area practice's EHR. If you think that may apply to your practice. Read more here: [www.BHACAblog.weebly.com](http://www.BHACAblog.weebly.com).
- **This Week's BHACA Featured Outcome Measure is the AUDIT (The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test)**. Find more information below in the Outcome-Based Evaluation section.

In observance of the holiday season, our next blast will be going out on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, three weeks from today.

Until the New Year,

The BHACA Team

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NBHP website – [www.nbhp.org](http://www.nbhp.org)

MHA website – [www.mhahouston.org](http://www.mhahouston.org)

### **BHACA: Integrated Health Care (IHC)**

- ***New Learning Community on SBIRT for Youth (from the Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network)*** – In a series of free webinars in 2015, this learning community will focus on the process of Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) as it is being implemented for youth. For more information, please see the National SBIRT ATTC website. The first webinar of the learning community will take place January 27, 2015. For more information about the webinar or to register, please see <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/825003975>.
- ***Safety Net Health Plan Efforts to Integrate Physical and Behavioral Health at Community Health Centers*** – This recent report from the Association for Community Affiliated Health Plans and the Center for Integrated Health Solutions describes four cases in which health plans and safety net providers have worked together to integrate physical and behavioral health care. Please see [http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/integrated-care-models/Integrated\\_Health\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_ACAP.pdf](http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/integrated-care-models/Integrated_Health_Fact_Sheet_ACAP.pdf).
- ***December Edition of AIMS Center Newsletter*** – The latest edition of the AIMS Center’s newsletter, Collaborations, is available at <http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=572a0dfcaff6e8a35be0ffb5c&id=09098feade&e=a99c70362e>.
- ***Creating Connections: An Early Look at the Integration of Behavioral Health and Primary Care in Accountable Care Organizations*** – This new report from The Commonwealth Fund explores the approaches to behavioral health and primary care integration utilized by two ACOs, Crystal Run Healthcare ACO and Essential Health. Please see <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2014/dec/creating-connections?omnicid=EALERT649075&mid=helen.davis@texmed.org>.

### **BHACA: Choosing a Certified Electronic Health Record System**

- ***On this past Monday, December 8th, The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) released the “Federal Health IT Strategic Plan 2015-2020.”*** Overall, “The first two goals of this updated strategy prioritize increasing the electronic collection and sharing of health information, while protecting individual privacy. The next three

focus on federal efforts to ‘create an environment where interoperable information is used by healthcare providers, public health entities, researchers and individuals to improve health, healthcare and reduce costs,’” (Healthcare IT News, 2014).

- Read more highlights from *Healthcare IT News*: [click here](#).
- Access the full “Federal Health IT Strategic Plan 2015-2020:” [click here](#).
- ***Several blue chip EHR developers and vendors, including Epic, have joined in a collaboration to advance standards of interoperability through a project of Health Level 7 International (hl7.org),*** known as the Argonaut Project. This is significant regarding an influx of private sector commitment to the advancement of international standards. Read more here: [www.healthcareitnews.com/news/epic-cerner-others-join-hl7-project](http://www.healthcareitnews.com/news/epic-cerner-others-join-hl7-project).

### **BHACA: Maximizing Third Party Funding Streams Revenue—Resources Related to Insurance Billing and Credentialing**

- ***Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) features several webinars regarding super-utilizer management. Not surprisingly, many ER super-utilizers have comorbid physical health, mental health, and/or substance use issues.*** Collaborating with area hospitals to manage and reduce super-utilization may be a significant opportunity both for outpatient behavioral health providers and for area health plans. Many of these webinars, such as the first one, “[How Can Health Plans Be Effective Partners on Super-Utilizer Management,](#)” focus on taking relationships between providers and health plans to the next level, with an emphasis on finding solutions together. **Browse HHSC webinars regarding the management of super-utilizers here:** [www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc\\_projects/ECI/other-projects.shtml](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/hhsc_projects/ECI/other-projects.shtml).

### **BHACA: Outcome-Based Evaluation**

- **BHACA Blast #26: Featured Outcome Measure—[AUDIT \(The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test\)](#)**
  - **What is the AUDIT?**

The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) is a 10-item questionnaire that was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1982 that screens for hazardous or harmful alcohol consumption.
  - **What does it measure?**

AUDIT was developed to screen for excessive drinking and in particular to help practitioners identify people who would benefit from reducing or ceasing drinking. The majority of excessive drinkers are undiagnosed. Often they present with symptoms or problems that would not normally be

linked to their drinking. The AUDIT will help the practitioner identify whether the person has hazardous (or risky) drinking, harmful drinking, or alcohol dependence.

- **For which populations/age(s) is the AUDIT appropriate?**

The AUDIT can be administered to all age groups, but has been found to show promising results in adolescents and young adults.

- **How is it administered?**

The AUDIT can be administered separately or combined with other questions as part of a general health interview, a lifestyle questionnaire, or medical history. A decision must be made whether to administer the AUDIT orally or as a written, self-report questionnaire. It is also important to note that the patient is not intoxicated or in need of emergency care at the time of administering the questionnaire.

- **Can I get the AUDIT in other languages?**

The AUDIT questions have been translated into Spanish, Slavic, Norwegian, French, German, Russian, Japanese, Swahili, and several other languages. These translations are available by writing to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Dependence, World Health Organization.

- **A note about BHACA's Featured Outcome Measures**

Our intention is to expand awareness of and knowledge about existing outcome measures within the BHACA community. In featuring a measure, we do not mean to endorse it as the right fit for your practice, because the appropriateness of a measure for any one behavioral health practice must be evaluated with that specific practice in mind. We hope you enjoy our featured outcome measures section.

- **Redesigning Quality Measurement** – This recently-published article from *The New England Journal of Medicine* provides insight into an individualized, integrated approach to quality measurement for patients with multiple conditions, including behavioral health conditions. Please see [www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1407883](http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1407883).
- **TOMORROW: Webinar Re. Two Agency Case Studies in Measuring Outcomes for the Treatment of Bipolar Disorder: “Using Evidence-Based Tools to Support Recovery from Bipolar Disorder”**—an example of population health management according to a single diagnosis (BPD).  
**Date:** Thursday, December 18, 2014  
**Time:** 12pm to 1:30pm CDT  
**Description:** The National Council for Behavioral Health’s Advancing Standards of Care for People with Bipolar Disorder project assisted agencies in implementing two evidence based tools: a group curriculum to help adults better

understand and self-manage their mental health condition (Wellness Self Management) and a functional assessment tool that tracks a person's ability to independently carry out everyday tasks (DLA-20). Hear how two participating agencies were able to significantly improve communication, social interaction, and coping skills for people recovering from bipolar disorder.

**To Register:** [attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7086810200720204802](http://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7086810200720204802)

### **BHACA: Additional Items of General Interest**

- ***Hogg Foundation Releases Complete Guidebook of Mental Health Services in Texas*** (Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, December 15, 2014)—“Texas is home to more than 4.3 million adults with some form of mental illness. Many of them—insured and uninsured alike—aren't able to get the help they need due to a decline in services and programs, according to the Texas Medical Association. To address this critical need, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health has released a comprehensive guidebook that demystifies Texas' complex maze of mental health systems and services.” Read more here: [hoggblogdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/mhguide\\_final-1.pdf](http://hoggblogdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2014/12/mhguide_final-1.pdf)

**About BHACA:** The Behavioral Health Affordable Care Act (BHACA) Initiative is a major collaborative endeavor of the Network of Behavioral Health Providers (NBHP) and Mental Health America of Greater Houston (MHA) designed to support Greater Houston area mental health and substance use providers in responding to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and other recent healthcare reforms across four domains: (1) enhancing and increasing the delivery of integrated health care (IHC), (2) maximizing third party funding streams revenue, (3) adopting certified electronic health record (EHR) systems, and (4) developing outcome-based evaluations. The BHACA Initiative is generously funded by Houston Endowment Inc., The Meadows Foundation the United Way of Greater Houston Community Response Fund and the Rockwell Fund.