

-----Original Message-----

From: martha.rhoades@tctwest.net [<mailto:martha.rhoades@tctwest.net>]  
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2010 8:30 PM  
To: EBSA, E-OHPSCA - EBSA  
Subject: Comment in support of RIN 1210-AB30

April 24, 2010

I am a psychiatrist. I have seen too many patients need expensive hospitalizations because they put off getting help, or dropped out of followup because of the lack of parity for mental health needs. Therefore, I am writing to support the interim final rule under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (RIN 1210-AB30).

I support the strong rule that would forbid insurance companies from charging higher copayments, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses for mental health treatment than they would for other physical health care. Thank you for ensuring that mental health care and physical health care coverage are included in a single deductible. Many times patients end up going to their internist for mental health needs because of the lesser copay. For simple cases this works fine. However, it also means that the complex cases are sicker by the time they decide they have to come to us. Their care would be significantly less expensive for everyone if they could come to us first.

Sincerely,

Martha Rhoades  
4820 Sanctuary Trl  
Billings, MT 59101