

**TO:** INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS

**FROM:** Dennis Marion, Deputy Secretary 

**DATE:** April 30, 2014

**RE:** Policy Clarification #01-14-01

On February 11, 2014, the DPW Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) issued policy clarification #01-14-01 regarding Medical Assistance payment for certain diagnostic laboratory services. The purpose of the clarification was to remind providers of the Medicaid payment regulation in regard to Narcotic Treatment Programs and was not focused on all outpatient treatment programs.

The current payment regulation states that diagnostic laboratory services used to detect the patient's use of drugs are included in the clinic visit fee as part of the services provided in Narcotic Treatment Programs, including Methadone Maintenance Programs.

OMHSAS will continue to review this issue while working collaboratively with our stakeholders to improve the behavioral health system. This review will determine any necessary changes to current regulations or policy to ensure that individuals in need have access to medically necessary substance use treatment services including methadone maintenance treatment.