

dures, the report declares. They should also take steps to maintain patient confidentiality and eliminate so-called "gag clauses" or other limitations that may prevent a clinician from discussing treatment options or providing appropriate care.

In addition, the report recommends that primary care clinicians be trained to better recognize patients with mental health and substance abuse problems and either treat them or refer them to specialty providers such as psychiatrists, psychologists, or social workers.

The committee was particularly concerned with the problems arising from having two distinct financing arrangements for behavioral health care—one for publicly funded state programs, as well as Medicaid and Medicare, and another for private health insurance. Critics of managed care fear that market forces could allow health plans to transfer an increasing share of costs to the consumer, to effectively screen out all but the healthiest enrollees from participating in the plan, or to shift costly care that might not be covered by managed care to the underfunded public system. The committee concluded that there is no way to judge whether any of these practices are taking place. Their report recommends that accreditation agencies and purchasers of care in the public and private sectors each develop criteria and guidelines to identify and correct potential problems.

The report recommends that pur-

chasers of managed care, and especially of behavioral health care, involve consumers and their families in treatment decisions and in measurements of patient satisfaction and treatment effectiveness. Accreditation agencies should evaluate the extent to which consumers are involved in treatment decisions; managed care companies should include consumers and their families as well as practitioners and researchers in their review of quality.

Managing Managed Care is available from National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418, for \$45 plus shipping; phone, 800-624-6242.

NEWS BRIEFS

Medicaid waiver for Maryland:

Maryland became the 14th state to receive approval from the Clinton Administration for a comprehensive Medicaid reform demonstration project. The project includes a mental health program delivered through a partnership of public and private agencies. The state expects to enroll about 80 percent of its current Medicaid population, some 280,000 people, into managed care plans during the first six months of 1997. Currently 25 percent of Maryland Medicaid beneficiaries are voluntarily enrolled in health maintenance organizations, while another 50 percent participate in the state's fee-for-service case management system.

Refining outcome measures:

The Health Care Financing Administration has awarded a four-year, \$2 million contract to the Rand Corporation to refine clinical measures of health care outcomes and test them in both managed care and fee-for-service medicine. The project will refine and test outcome measures for breast cancer, diabetes, and depression that were developed in early 1996 by FAcct, the Foundation for Accountability. The Rand investigators will focus on how to use outcome measures to actually improve quality of care. Working with FAcct and

third-party payers, they will convene expert clinical panels to review and refine the measures, the data collection instruments, and methods to adjust for relevant risk factors.

PEOPLE & PLACES

Appointments: *Steven M. Mirin, M.D.*, has been selected as incoming medical director of the American Psychiatric Association. He will assume his new post no later than January 1, 1998, following the retirement of *Melvin Sabshin, M.D.*, who has served as APA medical director since 1974. Dr. Mirin is president and psychiatrist-in-chief at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts, and professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

W. Walter Menninger, M.D., resigned as president of the Menninger organization in Topeka, Kansas, effective January 1 of this year. He will be succeeded by *Efrain Bleiberg, M.D.*, a child psychiatrist who has been executive vice-president and chief of staff since 1994.

Patrick Cody has joined the staff of the National Mental Health Association in Alexandria, Virginia, as director of media relations. He previously was editor of the biweekly newsletter *Mental Health Report*.

Corrections

An incorrect telephone number was listed for the American Psychiatric Association's AIDS Project in the November 1996 issue (page 1282). The correct number is 202-682-6143. E-mail should be sent to csvoboda@psych.org.

In the December 1996 People & Places (page 1406), the wrong degree was listed for Gilbert Honigfeld. Dr. Honigfeld has a Ph.D.

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