

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Paula Yurkovich
Phone (412) 918.8894 or (412) 260-1259
E-mail: pyurkovich@gatewayhealthplan.com



**GATEWAY HEALTH TO OFFER TELEPHONIC PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION
SERVICE PROGRAM (TiPS) TO NETWORK PHYSICIANS**

*Program Developed with Pennsylvania Department of Human Services to Improve
Pediatric Behavioral Health Treatment*

Pittsburgh – July 22, 2016

Gateway Health is proud to announce a partnerships with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) to offer a new program, the Telephonic Psychiatric Consultation Service (TiPS). TiPS will be offered by all HealthChoices managed care organizations (MCOs), including Gateway, to improve responsiveness and efficiency for pediatric psychiatric needs. TiPS provides real time resources to physicians who need immediate consultation and recommendations for children with behavioral health concerns.

Offering this program at a time when the movement is increasing the availability of peer-to-peer child psychiatry consultation teams to primary care providers (PCPs), medical specialists, and other providers who are prescribing psychotropic medications to children who are members of a HealthChoices plan allows Gateway to better serve members under the age of 18.

“In many situations when a pediatrician or primary care physician is treating a child with behavioral health issues, prescription drugs often become the preferred way to help a patient,” said Gateway Health’s Chief Medical Officer, Michael Madden, M.D.. “Making TiPS available to our provider community now gives us additional and better options to treat patients by focusing on their specific needs and not simply prescribing a medication

that may or may not address the issue. Practitioners are able to interact behavioral health professionals to holistically diagnose and treat the patient which can greatly improve efficacy”

The Pennsylvania HealthChoices MCOs selected one vendor to provide the TiPS program in each of five HealthChoices zones. In the Southwest and Northwest zones, Children's Community Pediatrics will serve Gateway members and the Penn State Children's Hospital will provide services to members in the Lehigh/Capital zone. Providers reach the TiPS team care centers in each specific zone at the following numbers:

- Southwest and Northwest: Children's Community Pediatrics – (844)-972-8477
- Lehigh-Capital : Penn State Children's Hospital – (800)-233-4082

The core model on which TiPS is built, centers around teams consisting of child psychiatrists, licensed therapists, care coordinators, and administrative support teams. These teams will help find and connect patients to the appropriate care they need, making it their focus to not simply prescribe medication as a first response solution.

“Gateway is proud and excited to have worked closely with DHS to develop and launch this much needed program,” said Madden. “The TiPS teams consist of some the most highly trained therapists, care coordinators and psychiatrists who specialize in child behavioral health and the unique needs of this population. These care teams will improve response times and provide consultations when the help is needed and time is often of the essence.”

TiPS team members respond to a request for consultation within 30 minutes, many times immediately and provide support in a number of ways:

- Answer the PCP's question(s)

- Refer the patient to the team care coordinator to assist the family in accessing local behavioral health services such as therapy, specialty psychiatry, or neuropsychological assessment
- Refer the patient to the team therapist to provide transitional, face-to-face care or telephonic support to the child and family until the family can access local behavioral health resources
- Refer the patient to the team or a local child psychiatrist for a face-to-face acute psychopharmacological or diagnostic consultation

The teams will help assist any PCP who sees children or adolescents covered by HealthChoices enabling Gateway Health's youngest and most vulnerable members to now have access to improved and prompt behavioral health care. TiPS core services that will be available to providers who see Gateway members will include, telephone and face-to-face consultation, care coordination as well as training and education.