

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

# Behavioral Health and Population Health Management: Is It Time for Real Progress?

Arthur J. Fried, Paul A. Gomez, and Purvi B. Maniar

**What is the issue?** Coverage for and investment in both behavioral health services and population health management has lagged behind growth in physical medicine. This may be poised to change, however, following recent legislative, payment model, technological, and marketplace developments that may stimulate greater access to cost-effective quality behavioral health care services and help fortify and improve population health management efforts.

**What is at stake?** Expanding access to behavioral health care services may strengthen population health management efforts and further population health goals to reduce the cost and improve the outcomes of medical care in the United States.

**What should attorneys do?** In order to prepare for client interest and inquiries into the complex and rapidly evolving area of behavioral health and its nexus to population health management, attorneys should study changes in the legislative landscape and health care market and be aware of legal and regulatory requirements that will become increasingly important to providers of behavioral health care services and to investors in the behavioral health care market.

**CITATION:** Arthur J. Fried, Paul A. Gomez, and Purvi B. Maniar, *Behavioral Health and Population Health Management: Is It Time for Real Progress?*, J. HEALTH & LIFE SCI. L., Feb. 2016, at 57, © 2016 American Health Lawyers Association, [www.healthlawyers.org/journal](http://www.healthlawyers.org/journal). All rights reserved.

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The authors would like to acknowledge the research support and editorial assistance of Law Clerks Benjamin Tso and Alison Wolf and 2015 Summer Associate Elena Quattrone.

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