



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
DIVISION OF MEDICAID

DAVID J. DZIELAK, Ph.D.  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

To Whom It May Concern:

Ascend Management Innovations (*Ascend*) is under contract with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid to perform PASRR (Preadmission Screening and Resident Review) mental health evaluations.

The healthcare specialist presenting this letter will be conducting that onsite assessment on behalf of *Ascend*. Although this individual will be gathering this information, the final decisions about services and/or placement will be made by a PASRR specialist. Therefore, *Ascend's* evaluator will not provide an outcome associated with the evaluation at this time.

It is very important that the *Ascend* assessor collect the most accurate and current information possible on behalf of the Division. To do that, she/he will need to review any medical records information, interview whatever caregivers best know the individual, and interview the nursing home resident or applicant.

These assessment processes are very important to ensure the most appropriate placement and services to match the evaluated individual's needs. Therefore, any help you can offer in collecting that information is an important step in advocating for this person's needs.

Should you have any problems or questions about this process, do not hesitate to contact *Ascend* toll free by phone at 877/431.1388 and ask to speak to a Mississippi quality team member. We appreciate your assistance in helping us advocate for persons using the State's Long Term Care Services.

Sincerely,

Bonlitha Windham  
Bureau Director, Mental Health Programs