

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUPPORTS DIVISION (DDSD)

**DIRECTOR'S RELEASE (DR)**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 15, 2009

Signature Date:	May 15, 2009
FROM:	<b>Signature on file</b> <b>Mikki Rogers, DDSD Director</b>
TO:	All Developmental Disability Waiver Service Providers, including Case Management Agencies
SUBJECT:	An alert to that there is an increase in Bowel Obstructions and a provision of a list of Bowel Obstructions symptoms

### **I. SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the release is to alert providers that the DDSD has seen an increase in Bowel Obstructions. The DDSD will be issuing a Health Alert Document next week, however we need you to be aware of some of the initial symptoms of a bowel obstruction. Please assure that individuals demonstrating symptoms are taken to their PCP or emergency room. One death has occurred due to this medical condition. Below are basic signs and symptoms. Please share with your staff.

### **II. SPECIFIC SECTION OF THE REQUIREMENT AFFECTED BY THIS RELEASE:**

N/A

### **III. REQUIREMENT AMENDMENT(S) OR CLARIFICATIONS**

#### Bowel Obstruction Symptoms

Symptoms of small-bowel obstruction can include:

- Cramping abdominal pain, generally coming in intense waves that strike at intervals of five to 15 minutes and sometimes center either on the navel or between the navel and rib cage (Pain that becomes constant may be a symptom of bowel strangulation)
- Nausea and vomiting
- No gas passing through the rectum
- A bloated abdomen, sometimes with abdominal tenderness
- Rapid pulse and rapid breathing during episodes of cramps

Symptoms of large-bowel obstruction can include:

- A bloated abdomen
- Abdominal pain, which can be either vague and mild, or sharp and severe, depending on the cause of the obstruction
- Constipation at the time of obstruction, and possibly intermittent bouts of constipation for several months beforehand
- Diarrhea resulting from liquid stool leaking around a partial obstruction