



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
www.mass.gov/masshealth

MassHealth
Managed Care Organization Bulletin 5
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TO: Managed Care Organizations Participating in One Care: MassHealth plus Medicare Program

FROM: Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: Prior Authorization and Utilization Management Requirements for Substance Use Disorders

Background

Section 19 of Chapter 258 of the Acts of 2014 requires EOHHS and its contracted partners, including integrated care organizations (also known as One Care plans), to cover certain long-term substance abuse recovery services without requiring prior authorization.

Prior-Authorization and Utilization Management

Starting on October 1, 2015, One Care plans must **NOT** require prior authorization for Inpatient Substance Use Disorder Services (Level IV), Acute Treatment Services (ATS) for Substance Use Disorders (Level III.7), and Clinical Support Services for Substance Use Disorders (Level III.5), as defined in Appendix A of the Contract between the United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and each One Care plan (the “Contract”).

Also effective October 1, 2015, One Care plans must require providers who deliver Clinical Support Services for Substance Use Disorders (Level III.5) to provide the One Care plan, within 48 hours of a One Care enrollee’s admission, with notification of the enrollee’s admission and the initial treatment plan for the enrollee. If a One Care plan performs utilization management review activities for Clinical Support Services for Substance Use Disorders (Level III.5), the review may be performed no earlier than day seven of the provision of such services.

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900, e-mail your inquiry to providersupport@mahealth.net, or fax your inquiry to 617-988-8974.