



PROVIDER ALERT

REQUESTS FOR CONCURRENT AUTHORIZATION OF TREATMENT SERVICES

JANUARY 27, 2017

When an individual needs additional treatment beyond that which is authorized on the original request, Providers should document new **current** clinical information and include important elements to facilitate the review process. With the understanding that all treatment should be individualized, providers need to **specify how much additional time in treatment** is expected for the individual to meet their recovery goals. Enter this information in the 'narrative box' on ProviderConnect.

Beacon Health Options bases all authorization requests for mental health treatment on the Maryland Medical Necessity Criteria and for substance use disorder treatment on ASAM Criteria. Both can be found on the Maryland Beacon website:

<http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com>

Beacon Health Options recognizes that there are individuals who may not complete a full episode of care in the initial authorization period as well as those individuals who may complete an episode of care in less time than is initially given. For example, when planning to transition an individual from Mobile Treatment or from PRP to only outpatient treatment within a couple of months, please specify that only 2 more months are being requested, rather than the standard 6-month authorization parameter, along with the clinical reasons why additional treatment is needed.

Another example is if an individual already had 2 months of Substance Use IOP and the provider feels that only another 3 weeks are needed, the provider should specify in the narrative box something like:

*“Individual has made progress toward some goals, is not currently using but still has daily cravings and anxiety over going back to work next week and is currently still at high risk of relapse without the 9 hours of weekly treatment. Expect him to stabilize with additional tx focus on anxiety management and transition to outpatient therapy, **so requesting three more weeks of IOP**”.*

In this case, Beacon would authorize 3 weeks without calling the provider.