



North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, LLC

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<http://northsoundbho.org> • 360.416.7013 • 800.684.3555 • F 360.416.7017

North Sound BHO Contract Memorandum 2017-017

Date: October 18, 2017

To: Ann Goeson, United General
Joseph Zibulewsky, St. Joseph Hospital
Robert Rutherford, Swedish Hospital
Julie Zarn, Providence Hospital
Jessica Bell, Skagit Valley Hospital
Kelly Pearson, Island Hospital
Mark Borden, Whidbey General
Meredith Dunham, Cascade Valley Hospital

From: Joe Valentine, Betsy Kruse, Dr. Keith Brown, Sandy Whitcutt and Michael McAuley

Subject: Prior Authorization for Payment of Psychiatric Inpatient Services

Greetings Hospital ED Directors:

Please find attached the memorandum describing the requirements regarding “prior authorization for payment of psychiatric inpatient services”.

This information is a result of a Medicaid contract Amendment from Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery.

The attachments will be implemented December 1, 2017.

The NM has memorandum attachment included below for your convenience.

Please ensure all appropriate staff is notified of these changes.

Contract File



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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: REGIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICE HOSPITALS
FROM: JOE VALENTINE, BETSY KRUSE, DR. KEITH BROWN, SANDY WHITCUTT AND MICHAEL MCAULEY
SUBJECT: PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT SERVICES
DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2017

Greetings:

The North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (North Sound BHO) entered into a Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) contract amendment that changes our Utilization Management (UM) responsibilities for psychiatric inpatient services for individuals who are Medicaid eligible and eligible for publicly funded inpatient mental health who reside within the North Sound BHO region.

Authorization for payment for psychiatric inpatient will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Hospital providers must request prior authorization (PA) before admission to an acute psychiatric inpatient facility unless the stay results from a prudent layperson emergency.
- Providers who admit individuals for emergency services necessary to evaluate and stabilize a psychiatric emergency medical condition shall notify Volunteers of America (VOA) UM Inpatient Certification Line for admission notification.
 - Notification of emergent psychiatric admissions provides VOA an opportunity to construct required Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) prior authorization data and to support continuum of care needs when an individual is transferred to an inpatient psychiatric hospital.
- If a eligible individual presents at a hospital for voluntary psychiatric emergency services and is transferred to an acute psychiatric inpatient facility, the receiving facility can assume North Sound BHO authorization for the initial 24 hours following admission to ensure the individual receives a thorough clinical assessment in order to determine medical necessity for ongoing inpatient hospital psychiatric care.
- Transfer from emergency services to an acute inpatient psychiatric facility occurs when the attending physician determines: 1.) Enrollee is sufficiently stable to transfer; and, 2.) A receiving facility intending to provide acute inpatient care is available and a bed has been secured.
 - It is the responsibility of the emergency service facility to coordinate the transfer of care to an inpatient psychiatric facility.

- VOA Placement Coordinators are available to provide statewide psychiatric bed availability and support continuum of care needs.

All notifications and requests for prior authorization will continue to be directed to VOA's Inpatient Certification line at 800.707.4656.

The North Sound BHO will update Policies #1571.00, #1545.00 and #1582.00 following the implementation of our contractual amendments on December 1, 2017.

Sincerely,

Joe Valentine, Executive Director
Betsy Kruse, Deputy Director
Dr. Keith Brown, North Sound BHO Medical Director
Sandy Whitcutt, Quality Specialist
Michael McAuley, Quality Specialist