



Quality Assurance Bulletin

Quality Assurance Unit

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health

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PRE-AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

This Bulletin is an update to QA Bulletin 20-05R regarding pre-authorization requirements for Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) and Therapeutic Foster Care Services (TFCS). Per Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) No. 21-073 and QA Bulletin 21-08, medically necessary services may be provided prior to the completion of the Assessment. For this reason, and to ensure IHBS, TBS and TFCS services are available when medically necessary, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) is removing the requirement to submit an Assessment and Client Treatment Plan when requesting pre-authorization for these services. This means a pre-authorization request may be made as soon as it is identified that these services are medically necessary even if prior to the completion of the Assessment and/or Client Treatment Plan.

Effective immediately, the new policy is that providers must request authorization for IHBS, TBS and TFCS by submitting the Supplemental Assessment form prior to service delivery and as soon as it is determined these services are medically necessary. The Supplemental Assessment form should be submitted for both initial and subsequent requests. If an Assessment and/or Client Treatment Plan is available, the provider may submit them for additional information to aid in the authorization decision-making process. However, no request will be denied due to a missing Assessment or Client Treatment Plan. Requests for authorization should continue to be submitted via Provider Connect (for Legal Entity providers) or e-mail (for Directly-Operated providers).

The Organizational Providers Manual will be updated to reflect this new policy. If Directly-Operated or Contracted providers have any questions related to this Bulletin, please contact the QA Unit at QualityAssurance@dmh.lacounty.gov.

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