

Outpatient Substance Abuse Services Prior Authorization Process Overview

APS Healthcare in collaboration with DHHS Office of Substance Abuse will implement a system of Prior Authorization (PA) for all admissions to Section 65 Substance Abuse Outpatient Therapy Services effective **9/1/09**. This change is being made to reduce administrative burden and to allow for more effective utilization management of these services.

1. This PA process will be operational **9/1/09** for all new admissions.
2. Providers will be required to complete a Prior Authorization request for service within the APS CareConnection System within 24 business hours. The Prior Authorization requests must include eligibility criteria in the form of Demographics, Preliminary Diagnosis and completion of ASAM PPC2R Level of Care Dimensions.
3. Prior Authorization approvals will be authorized for the full 30 weeks of service within a 40 week timeframe (360 units for 280 days). If the client is in need of additional service beyond 30 weeks, the provider must submit a Continued Stay Review and obtain authorization from APS Healthcare.
4. A Prior Authorization is required for the following Substance Abuse Procedure codes in order for providers to bill MaineCare for Substance Abuse Outpatient Services:

H0004 -Sub Abuse Outpatient **Therapy**-Substance Abuse Agency

H0004 -SA OP **Therapy** Sub Abuse Agency Non-Masters LADC

H0004 -SA OP **Therapy** Sub Abuse Agency CADC

H0004 HQ - Sub Abuse Outpatient **Group Therapy**-Substance Abuse Agency

H0004 HQ - SA OP **Group Therapy** Sub Abuse Agency Non-Masters LADC H0004

HQ - SA OP **Group Therapy** Sub Abuse Agency CADC

Outpatient Mental Health Services Registration Days & Units Changes

1. Default Registrations and for child and adult mental health outpatient therapy will increase to 365 days and 156 units.
2. This change is effective **8/1/09**.
3. This change will not effect services begun prior to **8/1/09**.
4. This change includes adult, child, agency, non-agency, psychologist Outpatient Services, both individual and group, both co-occurring and not, for the following procedure codes: H0004; H0004 HH; H0004 HQ; H0004 HQ HH
5. This change does not apply to substance abuse outpatient therapy.
6. APS Healthcare will continue to evaluate outpatient services which are non-concurrent, have high utilization of units, have long lengths of stay or appear to be duplicative of other services.
7. Please remember to discharge members in CareConnection so that APS Healthcare can accurately report Outpatient Services Lengths of Stay for your agency.