

Prior Authorization Requirement Waived for Drug and Alcohol Partial Hospitalization (2A)

To ensure access to treatment and to limit administrative requirements, **Community Behavioral Health (CBH) will no longer require prior authorization for Drug and Alcohol Partial Hospitalization (Level of Care 2A) for individuals with a substance use diagnosis, effective November 21, 2018.** Providers admitting CBH members to 2A should notify the CBH Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) line (215-413-7171) at the time of the admission to obtain an initial authorization for 45 days/225 units. Subsequent concurrent reviews will occur as needed.

As historically required, providers admitting members to 2A units must complete an assessment at admission, including Pennsylvania Client Placement Criteria (PCPC) (and American Society of Addiction Medicine [ASAM] once providers have transitioned to this criteria), documenting that the member meets medical necessity for this level of care.

CBH reminds providers that discharge planning must begin upon intake; if it is determined upon the initial concurrent review that the individual does not meet medical necessity criteria for 2A, the member must be sufficiently ready for discharge. Additionally, when questions regarding medical necessity arise during concurrent review, retrospective chart reviews may occur through the CBH Compliance Department.

CBH will be evaluating the impact of this change to determine modifications needed, including resuming the prior authorization requirement for 2A. Changes will be communicated by subsequent bulletins. Questions regarding this Bulletin can be directed to your assigned Provider Representative.