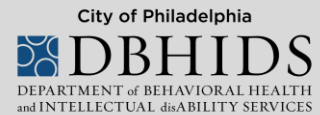




Provider Bulletin 19-17 October 3, 2019



Updates to PRTF and RTF Referral Process: Pre-Admission Interview Requirement

This Bulletin updates [Bulletin 18-14](#), issued on August 21, 2018, which applies to the referral process for all contracted child and adolescent Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) and Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs). **This update clarifies that a pre-admission assessment is required if requested by CBH** and reiterates the text of the earlier Bulletin. To facilitate this mandatory requirement, CBH created a new Level of Care (LOC), 500-24, “RTF Accredited,” for which providers may seek reimbursement.

At the time of PRTF or RTF referral, CBH may request that an interview be performed before a facility issues a denial for admission. CBH will not request interviews with every referral, but CBH will request interviews when the youth clearly fits the program outlined in the facility’s service description and stated inclusionary and exclusionary criteria. In these instances, CBH requests that an in-person, pre-admission interview be performed prior to determining that the youth is not a clinical fit for the program. For providers that are located more than 50 miles from the youth’s current location, HIPAA-compliant video conferencing is permissible. Upon completion of the pre-admission interview, the RTF should notify CBH of the outcome. Please note that children referred to PRTF and RTF have already been determined to meet medical necessity for this LOC, and any denials following the interview should reflect that any contributing areas of clinical concern were fully explored and assessed.

To support these pre-admission assessments, providers may see reimbursement for LOC 500-24, “RTF Accredited – Pre-Admission Assessment.” LOC 500-24 will be reimbursed at a rate of \$115 per event. This rate includes costs related to travel and videoconference. The interview must be completed by a clinician credentialed as a Mental Health Professional, psychologist, or psychiatrist.

Providers continue to be able to accept referred youth based on the written referral alone; in these cases, no interview is required. In instances where CBH has requested an interview and the provider is not able to accept—based on the written referral—the provider will reach out to the CBH RTF Referral Behavioral Health Liaison with the time and date of the interview; an authorization will then be issued for LOC 500-24. **Please note that requested interviews are mandatory and must take place whether the provider seeks payment or not.**