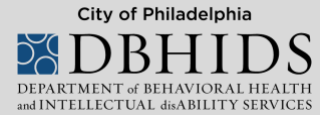




Provider Bulletin 20-11 June 15, 2020



Transition from Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) and School Therapeutic Services (STS) to Regionalized Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS)

In 2019, CBH issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS). This RFP outlined a regionalized approach to IBHS being delivered in the school, home, and community, starting at the beginning of the 2020–2021 academic year. CBH is issuing this Bulletin to guide providers through the transition from Behavioral Health Rehabilitative Services (BHRS) and School Therapeutic Services (STS) to IBHS. This Bulletin will outline prescription parameters for Fall 2020, CBH’s expectations for all current BHRS and STS providers in preparing for the fall, and CBH’s authorization practices leading up to Fall 2020. Please note that this is an interim strategy designed to eliminate any lapses in services for youth and ease the transition to Regionalized IBHS and that CBH will be implementing additional care management strategies moving forward.

Transition from BHRS and STS to IBHS

All families of youth currently authorized for BHRS or STS will receive a notification from CBH regarding the transition to IBHS. They will be notified of the regionalization by school clusters and informed of the provider assigned to the region where their child’s school is located, along with resources to help them learn more about their new provider. A copy of that letter [can be found here](#). Families will also be informed of their right to exercise family choice and instructed to contact CBH in order to opt out of assignment to their cluster’s provider.

To facilitate transition, CBH will be sending authorization reports to all current BHRS and STS providers. This report will list all youth authorized for BHRS and STS at that provider, the school information in CBH’s electronic medical record, and the types and intensity of services authorized. Providers will be expected to review this list and update information to reflect the school the youth is planning to attend in Fall 2020 and the anticipated service needs. Each provider will receive their authorization report from the Clinical Management department by June 16, 2020. These authorization reports must be updated and returned to CBH by June 25, 2020.

Additional details about the transition plan, including ways for providers to collaborate around transferring members, are forthcoming from CBH.

Expectations for Current BHRS and STS Providers

In order to facilitate transitions for each youth, and to support providers in planning for the fall, all current BHRS and STS providers must complete an updated Written Order for IBHS for any youth they believe will need IBHS in the fall. These orders must be received by CBH by August 14, 2020. If the youth in question will be transitioning to a new provider in the fall, the Written Order must include a completed Progress Monitoring Form, which was published in [CBH Provider Bulletin 20-02](#). CBH will facilitate sharing of this information with the new provider as a part of the transition process. In addition, this information can be used by new providers to inform the initial IBHS assessment within 15 days of service initiation and completion of the Individual Treatment Plan within 30 days of service initiation which, per regulations, must be completed. A Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) will not be required by CBH during this initial assessment period but may be completed at provider discretion. FBAs will be required for all subsequent requests for Behavioral Health Technician (BHT) services.

IBHS Services in Fall of 2020: Initial Authorization

CBH must receive all Written Orders for services for Fall 2020 by August 14, 2020, in order to ensure continuity of care during the transition as well as to support providers in planning.

For the period of initial transition, all youth will be authorized for the same amount of services to allow for flexible service delivery while transitioning back to school. Services will be authorized in the following amounts, as reflected on the IBHS Written Order Template, which has been updated to include Regionalized IBHS:

- Behavior Consultant (BC): up to 20 hours per month
- Mobile Therapist (MT): up to 20 hours per month
- Group Mobile Therapist (Group MT): up to four hours per month
- Behavioral Health Technician (BHT): up to 120 hours per month

This updated template [can be found here](#) and is linked below this Bulletin.

Please note each amount is **up to** and should be used as is clinically needed. It is expected that most youth will not need the maximum hours authorized.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Evidence-Based Individual Services, and Group Services continue to be available for individuals as reflected on the Written Order Letter.

Initial Authorization Length for Regionalized IBHS

Due to authorization extensions issued due to COVID-19, most youth receiving BHRS or STS have authorizations that expire on August 30, 2020. While all youth will be authorized for a standard amount of services as listed above, CBH will be issuing initial IBHS authorizations for fall with varying lengths. This will support IBHS providers operationally by ensuring that youth in IBHS have staggered last-covered days moving forward. Authorization lengths will be based on the amount of services a youth was authorized for at the close of the 2019–2020 school year. Please refer to the table below.

Services authorized at the close of the 2019–2020 school year	Duration of initial authorization for regionalized IBHS
STS level 1 or BSC and/or MT, and 16 hours or more per week of combined TSS-S and TSS-NS	90 days
STS level 2 or BSC and/or MT, and 15 hours or fewer per week of combined TSS-S and TSS-NS	150 days
STS level 3 or BSC and/or MT only	210 days

Requests for ABA, Evidence-Based Individual Services, and Group Services should continue to reflect individual need and may be authorized for up to 365 days based on program description and clinical need.

CBH Utilization Review for IBHS

CBH will not complete medical necessity review for the initial authorization period for youth transitioning to Regionalized IBHS for any Written Order submitted by August 14, 2020, prescribing services as outlined above. If a provider feels a youth needs more services than can be authorized above for Fall 2020, a Written Order, with supporting clinical information, can be submitted to CBH for review. This request should include an FBA if the request includes individual BHT services.

For requests for IBHS received after August 14, 2020, CBH will require all Written Orders requesting BHT services to be accompanied by an updated clinical assessment, including an FBA. This includes continued stay requests at the 3-, 5-, or 7-month mark for all youth authorized for BHT services during the initial authorization period. Please note that an updated Written Order and assessment can be completed at any time as clinically indicated.

Questions

Please direct any questions about this Bulletin to your assigned Provider Relations Representative.