

Removal of Prior Authorization for Withdrawal Management

In alignment with the 2024 Program Standards and Requirements (PS&R), Community Behavioral Health (CBH) is removing prior authorization for withdrawal management levels of care. The expectation for 24-hour access to these levels of care remains. Admitting providers will maintain 24-hour referral review and admissions and provide the contact information for their organization to provider network management at CBHProviderNetworkAccess@phila.gov.

When an American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) trained clinician has evaluated a member and determined that they meet ASAM criteria for withdrawal management, the provider will contact the Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) line at CBH and provide the following information:

- Presenting problem
- ASAM Dimensions 1 – 6
 - Dimension 1: Acute intoxication and/or withdrawal potential. Exploring and assessing the current and past use of substances, as well as the history of withdrawal. This includes any withdrawal assessment scores and laboratory results.
 - Dimension 2: Biomedical conditions and complications, which explores a person's medical needs and health history.
 - Dimension 3: Emotional, behavioral, or cognitive conditions and complications. This includes any active psychiatric symptoms, psychiatric history, and trauma-related needs.
 - Dimension 4: Readiness to change. Determining a person's willingness and readiness to change their substance use.
 - Dimension 5: Relapse, continued use, or continued problem potential. Assessing a person's individual needs that can influence their potential to relapse, including history of relapses.
 - Dimension 6: Recovery environment. Assessing how a person's living situation can help or hinder their efforts at recovery.
- Documented conversation of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) with member.
- Assessment completed by (including credentials) with the level of care requested.

The PES line will then approve 5 days of withdrawal management, and the accepting provider can contact PES within 24 hours for the authorization number.

If the admitting provider needs to request additional days of withdrawal management, they may contact their assigned Clinical Care Manager. The admitting provider will also be subject to retrospective review.