



East Carolina Behavioral Health

*servicing...Beaufort, Bertie, Craven, Gates, Hertford, Jones,
Northampton, Pamlico, & Pitt counties*

To: Consumers, Families, Providers and Stakeholders

From: Cindy Ehlers, MS, LPC, and Assistant Area Director- Clinical Operations

Date: March 22, 2010

Re: Update-Revised Authorization Guidelines for IPRS funded services 3-15-10

ECBH appreciates all the calls and emails from consumer, families and providers. We continue to try to meet the needs of our communities within the financial limits this year. We are committed to making responsible decisions about the changes to services offered in our communities and hope that all stakeholders will remain flexible as we struggle to make the dollars stretch as far as we can to meet the needs of so many. We recognize and appreciate that changes we make create disruptions for individuals and their families as well as our provider agencies. We appreciate the advocacy efforts of consumers, families and providers in our area. We hope that everyone that called or emailed us the past couple of weeks will express the same passion about needs to the members of the General Assembly that make the budget decisions that impact our communities locally especially consumers, families and providers.

ECBH is committed to the communities we serve to meet the needs to the best of our ability. We are constantly making adjustments to benefits as part of our role to manage the limited money we are allocated by state and local government against the demand of the indigent population that we serve. It is still our intention to ensure that we make the funds that we do receive last the entire fiscal year and that those funds are used for individuals who have the most significant needs and no other resources. We realize the recent changes we made had and will continue to have a major impact. This week we are able to add a few things back based on our review of current billing trends and annualized projections and cross area service program allocations that specifically apply to substance abuse treatment programs.

This is an update to the revised authorization guidelines memo dated March 15, 2010. We continue to attempt to meet the needs of individuals within the current available financial resources. Please note that these guidelines apply to services funded through State dollars, **and do not apply to services funded by Medicaid or Health Choice or other third party payers nor do they apply to the AMHC area.**

Mobile Crisis, Facility Based Crisis, Detox, Medication Management and Evaluation, and Assessment codes will remain no prior authorization required for state funded individuals. Providers of these services are subject to a post payment review of utilization.

Outpatient Treatment- ECBH will reinstate H0004HQ, This benefit is limited to 1 hour per week from April 1, 2010- June 30, 2010. All other H-codes continue to be eliminated.

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Effective April 1, 2010 will **NOT** require prior authorization for all CPT codes for therapy for existing or new clients. These codes will continue to be no prior authorization but are limited to 3 events between April 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010 per consumer.

SAIOP and SACOT- Effective April 1, 2010 these services are available for consumer who meets the ASAM criteria and Entrance criteria of the service definition. These services **will** require prior authorization. Consumers currently receiving these services will be concurrently reviewed for continued stay criteria.

Day Treatment- Effective March 15, 2010- No New Admissions for State Funded consumers with the exception of the Port SA Adolescent Treatment program. Consumers currently receiving these services will be concurrently reviewed for continued stay criteria.

Assertive Community Treatment Team- Effective April 1, 2010 this benefit WILL NOT be eliminated but will be closed to new admissions.

Group Living Moderate- Effective March 22, 2010 this service is open to new admissions only for the Port Adolescent Substance Abuse and the Village operated by Robeson through cross area service programs dollars.

Long Term Supported Employment Follow Up- Effective April 1, 2010 existing consumers will be able to continue to request 1 hour per month of this service with no new admissions.

Developmental Therapy- Effective March 15, 2010 there will be No New Admissions for state funded Developmental Therapy. Guidelines for school age Children remain in effect as outlined in the March 15, 2010 guidelines. School age Children will continue to transition to development therapy group where appropriate or other natural supports. Children ages 5 and below are no longer able to receive DT individual or group. Children 5 and below can better have these needs met through Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Public or Private preschool settings.

Effective April 15, 2010 all adults getting Developmental Therapy will need to transition to Day Activity or Adult Day Vocational Program **or MAY GET DEVELOPMENTAL THERAPY GROUP** or other natural and community support services.

Respite-This benefit is available to individuals to provide the primary caregiver a break. This service is **NOW ALSO AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS** who live at home. Adults who live in a paid living arrangement are not eligible. Individuals can receive a limit of no more than 5 hours per month effective April 1, 2010. Respite is an "as needed" service not intended to replace other services.

Services not mentioned here are not impacted by this update the previous guidelines published are still in effect for those services. East Carolina Behavioral Health will continue to evaluate spending in all service categories for all populations as well as the impact of budget allocations or reductions from the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities or Substance Abuse Services.

If you have questions or need clarification please feel free to contact Cindy Ehlers, Assistant Area Director by email at cindyehlers@ecbhime.org .