



Memo

From: UCare

Date: February 7, 2012

Re: Minor Correction to Pre-notification/Prior Authorization Cover Letter for Behavioral Health Services Dated 1/12/12

Please be advised the cover letter for the Pre-notification/Prior Authorization requirements grid for Behavioral Health Services contains a minor error in the second sentence of the second paragraph.

The original sentence stated:

The Extended Diagnostic Assessment requires prior authorization.

Instead of “prior authorization,” it should have been “notification.” Therefore, the correct sentence is:

The Extended Diagnostic Assessment requires notification.

Attached, is a revised letter for your reference. We apologize for the error and inconvenience. We will also be updating our web site with the revised letter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Provider Assistance Center at **612-676-3300** or **1-888-531-1493** (toll free).



February 7, 2012 (REVISED)

Dear Provider:

I am sending this letter to you as notice of changes to the Pre-notification/Prior Authorization requirements for Behavioral Health Services that went into effect on January 1, 2012. The list of services requiring prior authorization is contained Chapter 5 of the UCare Provider Manual located at www.ucare.org/providers and is published on the provider page of UCare's web site.

The most significant change is the implementation of four levels of Diagnostic Assessment. The Extended Diagnostic Assessment requires **notification**. Please see the DHS bulletin for the definitions of service levels, http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/publications/documents/pub/dhs16_162553.pdf. Training on the diagnostic assessment standards will be offered by DHS. See http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/dhs16_160315 for training information. Below is a brief description of the changes.

Types of Diagnostic Assessment

Brief: Allows up to 10 sessions of clinical outpatient MH Services (includes psychotherapy and med management).

- For a new client or an existing client who should not need more than 10 sessions during the year.
- Crisis Assessment by a certified crisis team can also be used.
- Creates a provisional clinical hypothesis.

Standard: Most similar to current diagnostic assessment process and is used in order to maintain client eligibility for outpatient services.

- Annually for a child.
- Every 3 years for an adult (if Adult Updates are done in between).
- When the mental health condition has changed markedly and re-evaluation is necessary.

Extended: If client is found to have complex needs due to:

- Psychosis, cognitive or neurocognitive impairment.
- The need to consider past diagnoses and determine their current applicability.
- Co-occurring substance abuse disorder.
- Disruptive or changing environments.
- Communication barriers (language or age).
- Cultural considerations.
- DC: 0-3RA at least 3 or more appointments needed.

Adult Update: Can be completed between the Standard or Extended DA which needs to be completed at a minimum of every 3 years.

UCare will evaluate the above changes through the year and appreciates feedback at any time.

Sincerely,

Russel Kuzel, MD, M.M.M.

Sr. Vice President & Chief Medical Officer