

PROVIDER BULLETIN

Provider information



August 5, 2013

Pre-certification and concurrent review for children's and adolescent residential mental health services

To help assure that subscribers receive the appropriate level of care for children's and adolescent residential mental health services, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross), as done with comparable medical/surgical services, utilizes certain pre-certification and concurrent review protocols. Effective October 1, 2013, this process will be expanded to include additional children's residential providers. Pre-certification and concurrent review applies to health services provided to subscribers in fully insured and self-insured benefit plans, including Minnesota Health Care Programs, with the exception of Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+), SecureBlueSM (HMO SNP), Platinum BlueSM (Cost) and Blue Essentials (HMO-POS) subscribers. Medicare supplement benefit plans are also excluded from review.

Definitions

"Pre-certification" means an advance review of a proposed facility admission or certain services or procedures in order to determine whether the proposed admission, services or procedures meet the medical necessity criteria for payment and to ensure that the subscriber receives the maximum benefits available under the subscriber's plan.

"Concurrent review" means ongoing review during the subscriber's care, to ensure that it meets established medical criteria in a timely manner and certifies the necessity, and the appropriateness, and quality of services during an admission.

Pre-certification requirements

Provider will obtain pre-certification from Blue Cross before admitting a subscriber. If the admission is emergent or after business hours, the provider will obtain pre-certification within two (2) business days after the admission. Provider shall obtain pre-certification by calling Blue Cross at **(651) 662-5270** or toll free at **1-800-528-0934**.

Blue Cross will review assessments completed via the

1. Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Index (CASII),
2. the guidelines in Appendix A of the Minnesota Department of Human Services Bulletin #08-53-03,
3. or a similar functional assessment instrument.

Clinical reviews will be completed using the criteria set forth in The Mihalik Group's Medical Necessity Manual for Behavioral Health.

Concurrent review requirements

Providers have a contractual obligation as noted in Chapter 4 of the online Blue Cross Provider Policy and Procedure Manual, available at **providers.bluecrossmn.com**, to adhere to care management programs. At the time of pre-certification a date will be established to conduct concurrent review.

Concurrent review will include verification of medical necessity based on criteria set forth in The Mihalik Group's Medical Necessity Manual for Behavioral Health.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or toll free at **1-800-262-0820**.

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