



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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LME-MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J348

Date: December 12, 2019

To: Local Management Entities-Managed Care Organizations (LME-MCOs)

From: Deb Goda, Behavioral Health Unit Manager, NC Medicaid

Kathy Nichols, Assistant Director of Policy and Program Design, DMH/DD/SAS

Subject: SUD IMD Clarification

It has come to our attention that some MCOs are denying IMD stays for SUD that are in excess of 15 days per month. Per our 1115 waiver, Medicaid beneficiaries may receive SUD Treatment in an IMD and remain eligible for other medically necessary coverable by Medicaid. The purpose of this bulletin is to remind MCOs that effective 7/1/19, services in IMDs for SUD treatment are allowed without a day limit per Section 6.23 of the contract as follows:

6.23.1 Substance Use Disorder Services: Under North Carolina's 1115 waiver authority, Substance Use Disorder ("SUD") services for individuals in an Institution for Mental Disease ("IMD") as well as any other Medicaid State Plan services for which they may be eligible during their stay in the IMD, shall be reimbursed under Medicaid. There is not a day limit nor is there a cap on the rate that may be paid to the IMD.

Individuals receiving treatment for Mental Health diagnoses in an IMD are still limited to short term stays of no more than 15 days in a calendar month as noted in the contract.

Please let your contract manager know how you will be notifying your providers of these changes and how you will be reprocessing requests for SUD treatment in an IMD if they were rejected solely on exceeding the 15-day period. For individuals who had an admit date prior to 7/1/19 and still in care on 7/1/19 only days on or after 7/1/19 are reimbursable.

If you have any questions regarding information in this communication bulletin, please contact Deb Goda at 919-527-7640 or e-mail at Deborah.Goda@dhhs.nc.gov.

Previous bulletins can be accessed at: www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mhddsas/joint-communication-bulletins

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