



TO: Home Health Agencies, Access Agencies, DSS Autism Case Managers and Beacon Health Options
RE: Changes to Behavioral Health Prior Authorization Requests for Home Health Services to Waiver Clients

Effective for dates of service **April 1, 2019 and forward**, all home health services for clients covered under the State Funded Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE), Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), Autism, Connecticut Home Care (CHC) and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Waivers with a behavioral health primary diagnosis code will no longer receive authorization from Beacon Health Options but will be authorized by the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Community Options Unit (COU). Prior Authorizations (PAs) previously uploaded by Beacon Health Options will now be uploaded or entered via the secure Web portal by the Access Agency or the DSS Autism Care manager responsible for managing the client's care.

Home Health services provided to CHCPE, ABI, Autism, CHC or PCA Waiver clients with primary diagnosis codes requiring Behavioral Health Service PA can be found on the www.ctdssmap.com Web site. From the home page, under the "Provider" menu, select "Provider Fee Schedule Download" and click "**I Accept**" at the end of the license agreement. Click the "*****Click here for the Fee Schedule Instructions*****" link. Under Table Listing, click on "**Table 10**" for behavioral health diagnosis codes.

Beacon Health Options

As a result of this change Beacon Health Options will be ending all Behavioral Health PAs, designated with a "U" prefix, for clients covered under the CHCP, ABI, Autism, CHC or

PCA Waiver with an end date of **March 31, 2019**.

Future Home Health Service Authorizations uploaded by Beacon Health Options for CHCP, ABI, Autism, CHC or PCA Waiver clients for dates of service **on or after April 1, 2019** will error off with the following message: "**Client Connected to Waiver Plan.**" **The assigned PA number and corresponding error message will appear on the PA Error report currently received by Beacon Health Options.** As a result, any attempt to search for the PA via the secure Web portal will display the following error message: **Prior Authorization not found.**"

Access Agencies and DSS Autism Case Managers

DXC Technology will provide a list of current Beacon Health Options PAs (denoted with a "U" prefix) for services extending beyond the March 31, 2019 cutoff date to the Access Agency or the DSS Autism Case Management team responsible for the case management of the client. The Access Agency or applicable Autism Case Manager should create a new PA, for each "U" PA on the list, with an effective date of **April 1, 2019 through the end date of the services currently authorized by Beacon Health Options.** As the new PA is for currently authorized Behavioral Health services, a value of "**B**" – **Behavioral Health** should be entered in the **PA Assignment-Sub** field of the PA input file, when uploading via batch. When entering the PA via a secure Web portal account, "**B**" – **Behavioral Health** should be

selected from the drop-down menu of the PA Assign-Sub field on the PA Base Information panel.

The new PA will be systematically assigned a PA prefix of “07” when uploaded via batch or “20” if entered via the secure Web portal.

As the services associated to the new PAs extend beyond the March 31, 2019 cut-off date and have already been approved by Beacon Health Options, the Access Agencies or DSS Autism Case Managers should upload these PAs with a line-item PA status of “K”, or by selecting Pre-approved for Care Plan, from the drop down menu of the PA line-item status field on the secure Web portal to avoid unnecessary reauthorization by the DSS COU.

Future Behavioral Health authorization requests for Home Health services **that exceed the standard benefit** uploaded or entered by the Access Agency or Autism Case Manager **will be systematically placed in an in-process status and directed to the DSS COU work cue.** To ensure these authorization requests are directed to the appropriate DSS work queue, an “M” should be entered for a **Money Follows the Patient (MFP) client** and a “B” should be entered for a **non-MFP client** in the **PA Assignment Sub field of the PA input file.** When entering a PA via a secure Web portal account, Access Agencies or Autism Case Managers should select “M - MFP” or “B - Behavioral Health” from the drop-down menu of the PA Assign-Sub field of the PA Base Information panel.

The Access Agency and Autism Case Managers must receive the **CMS-485, Home Health Certification and Plan of Care Form** from the Home Health Agency and include text within the PA from the 485 form to support approval of the PA for Behavioral Health services to be added to the client’s care plan. The Behavioral Health PA like all other Home

Health PAs exceeding standard benefit will remain in an in-process status until approved by the DSS COU.

Home Health Agencies

As a result of the new **PA Assign-Sub value “B”**, providers will easily be able to determine Behavioral Health from non-Behavioral Health PAs for home health services of the same PA prefix. **MFP clients will continue to be identified by the PA Assign-Sub value of “M”.** Providers may also incorporate the **PA Assign-Sub field – value “B” in their PA search criteria** to locate all behavioral Health PAs for home health services on or after **April 1, 2019** as noted in the secure Web portal account PA search panel below. **A search may also be performed for MFP clients by entering an “M” in this field.**

New Behavioral Health PAs for Home Health services for both **MFP and non-MFP clients** that **exceed the standard benefit** for dates of service on or after April 1, 2019 **must be accompanied by a CMS-485, Home Health Certification and Plan of Care form** completed by a Home Health Agency. The Home Health Agency must send the completed form as they currently do for medical services to the Access Agency or DSS Autism Case Manager of the client to whom services will be provided. **Home Health Agencies should refer to Provider Bulletin PB 2012-11 for clarification of physician signatures required on the form.**

As a reminder, effective for dates of service April 1, 2019 and forward:

1. PA requests for **home health services** with a **primary diagnosis of behavioral health** that **exceed the standard benefit** for **CHCPE, ABL, Autism, CHC or PCA Waiver clients** will be now be submitted by the Access Agency or DSS Autism Case Manager overseeing the care of the client directly to DXC Technology.
2. **The Home Health Agency must submit the CMS-485, Home Health Certification and Plan of Care Form to the Access Agency or DSS Autism Case Manager to support approval of the PA** for Behavioral Health services to be added to the client's care plan.
3. **PA requests designated with a PA Assignment-Sub of "B"** will go into an in-process status until reviewed by the DSS COU.
4. **PA requests designated with a PA Assignment-Sub of "M"** will continue to go into an in-process status until reviewed by the DSS COU.
5. **Provider communications regarding PA changes should be directed to the Access Agency or DSS Autism Case Manager.**
6. Approved PAs for clients serviced through Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) will be submitted to Santrax as they currently are today.