
PROVIDER ALERT

Alert#: PA 2008-03
Issued: September 2008
TO: CT BHP Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Providers
SUBJECT: CT BHP Bypass Program

Dear Provider,

The CT BHP is pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of developing a Bypass Program for Adult Inpatient Psychiatric providers. The benefits of a Bypass Program are that they provide administrative relief to our inpatient providers by authorizing care for longer periods of time, thus decreasing the number of concurrent reviews required for a stay. As a result of our initial research, adult inpatient psychiatric services appear to be an ideal candidate for a Bypass Program. Initially, the Bypass Program would be used for those inpatient mental health facilities where there is little variation in average length of stay (ALOS) and no concerns relative to quality of care. The following describes an abridged listing of criteria and methodology being proposed for this program.

Eligibility for the Bypass Program for adult inpatient psychiatric services would be based upon:

- Demonstrated willingness and ability to work with the CT BHP to manage programmatic length of stay;
- An average length of stay (ALOS) that is no greater than the annually determined number of standard deviations from the statewide average;
- Treatment of an annually determined minimum volume of members during the previous calendar year;
- Verification that the provider has no current quality improvement plans related to quality of care involving the targeted adult inpatient unit/s.

Proposed eligibility criteria and length of initial authorization for participants in 2008 program:

All decisions regarding participation in the adult inpatient psychiatric services Bypass Program will be based upon authorization data for calendar year 2007 (Q1 '07 through Q4 '07). Programs with:

1. An ALOS that falls within 0.5 Standard Deviations (SD) of the state-wide ALOS and
2. That treated a minimum of 20 members during calendar year 2007, and
3. That have no current quality improvement plan related to quality of care associated with the targeted adult inpatient units treating CT BHP members will be invited to participate in the Bypass Program for the remainder of calendar year 2008.
4. Adult inpatient programs that meet these qualifications would receive a 6 day initial authorization for psychiatric admissions for the adult population.
5. Agreement from facility to call CT BHP with discharge information will be required.

Adult inpatient facilities will be outreached directly by the CT BHP in the coming months and will be given additional information and a complete listing of the criteria and determination of participation for this Bypass program.

Sincerely,

Provider Relations
Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership