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June 29, 2018

SAPC BULLETIN NO. 18-07-START

TO: Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Contracted Treatment Providers

FROM: John M. Connolly, Ph.D., M.S.Ed., Interim Division Director
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: MEMBER AUTHORIZATIONS

Effective July 1, 2018, all patients served under a Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) funded treatment provider will be required to have a Member Authorization for all services.

Currently, authorizations are required for residential services (levels 3.1, 3.3, and 3.5), Recovery Bridge Housing, medications for addiction treatment (MAT) for youth (age 12 – 17), and withdrawal management for youth (age 12 – 17). Beginning July 1, 2018, Member Authorizations will also be required for outpatient, intensive outpatient, opioid treatment program, withdrawal management (for young adults and adults age 18 and over), and Recovery Support Services.

SAPC is making this shift to reduce financial liability for providers and streamline the eligibility verification process. The new Member Authorization process will ensure these verifications are conducted during patient enrollment. This will greatly reduce the financial risk for providers and decrease the need for payment blackouts if eligibility is not met.

Additional information and guidance on member authorizations are posted on the following SAPC Sage site: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/Sage/SageWebinars.htm>. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact your assigned Contract Program Auditor.

JMC:dd
18-34741

c: Deborah Allen
Daniel Deniz