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SAPC INFORMATION NOTICE 20-11

October 1, 2020

TO: Los Angeles County Substance Use Disorder
Contracted Treatment Network Providers

FROM: Gary Tsai, M.D., Interim Division Director 
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: MEMBER AUTHORIZATION SUBMISSION

The Department of Public Health’s Division of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) is providing additional clarity and guidance on Network Provider responsibilities when submitting member authorizations for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services.

In accordance with the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services Provider Manual, section entitled “Patient Service Standards,” paragraph “Eligibility Determination and Establishing Benefits,” the County’s Substance Use Disorder (SUD) benefit is available to patients with an active SUD who meet the following criteria:

- Resident of Los Angeles County; and
- Medi-Cal enrolled or in the process of enrollment due to presumed eligibility, including those transferring benefits from another County or State; or
- My Health LA eligible or enrolled, including those empaneled to the Department of Health Services (DHS); or
- Participants mandated to treatment under Assembly Bill (AB) 109, Drug Court, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), Promoting Safe and Stable and/or Families Time Limited Family Reunification (PSSF-TLFR) program and are commercially insured or otherwise ineligible for Medi-Cal or My Health LA.

Member Authorization Grace Period

For treatment services provided between July 1, 2020 and October 31, 2020, SAPC will allow providers to submit member authorizations or resubmit authorizations that were denied because they were outside of the thirty (30) calendar day requirement for initial admissions and continued services as described in SAPC Information Notice 20-10. Network Providers will have until November 30, 2020 to submit or resubmit member authorizations for the opportunity to have member authorizations approved for all dates of service assuming all clinical documentation requirements are met.

Partial Approval of Late Authorization Submission

For treatment services provided on or after November 1, 2020, providers who submit member authorizations outside of the 30-calendar day requirement will be subject to only partial approval for the dates of service based on the date of authorization submission.

Please contact your assigned Contract Program Auditor for additional information.

GT:dd