

PROVIDER ALERT
Changes to IMD Inpatient Admissions
December 23, 2021

Target Audience: Emergency Department and Institution for Medical Diseases (IMD) Providers

Issue

In May 2021, Optum Maryland sent a communication to providers detailing the guidelines for psychiatric admissions into an IMD (see [Authorization for Admission to Inpatient IMDs of Adults 22-64 Years of Age](#)). These guidelines were necessitated by IMD waiver limitations that allowed admissions of Medicaid patients to IMD facilities only in very limited circumstances. Effective in January 2022, restrictions on admissions of Medicaid patients to IMD facilities will be greatly reduced. In anticipation of this, the following new guidelines went into effect on December 17, 2021.

Impact

Acute hospital psychiatric units and Emergency Departments can now transfer an individual for admission directly to an inpatient psychiatric IMD.

The referring facility is no longer required to attempt and fail to transfer the individual to other psychiatric units in acute/general hospitals. This change will greatly improve access to care and will also reduce holding time in Emergency Departments and Acute Hospitals for those individuals best treated in a psychiatric facility.

If you have questions about the information in this alert, please contact Optum Maryland customer service at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland