

PROVIDER ALERT

Medical Necessity Criteria for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs for Adults (PRP-A) and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Programs for Minors (PRP-M)

June 26, 2020

Effective with the reactivation of Optum Maryland's Incedo Provider Portal (IPP) on July 1, 2020, providers will be required to complete new forms in the system in order to determine whether individuals referred for PRP services meet the Medical Necessity Criteria (MNC) for the requested level of service. This requirement will extend to future services from the reactivation date. An update to the MNC for PRP is effective from July 1, 2020 (see link below).

We know that adding these forms will require additional information and effort, and recognize that this adds to the challenges presented by reactivation. The decision to implement the new forms at this time was done after careful consideration of the current landscape of PRP implementation, showing an increase in expenditures on PRP services of over \$40 million FY2019 over the previous year. This trend has continued. This growth in expenditures is not sustainable, particularly in light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Maryland Department of Health is accountable to the State Legislature for reigning in excessive costs, and also for ensuring the quality of PRP programming, and it is imperative that only those services justified by medical necessity are authorized. The forms that will be used are tools necessary for Optum to fulfill its mandate to manage care appropriately.

With the authorization grace period in effect from January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020, some PRP services will have gone an entire year without full medical necessity review of the need for clinical services, as authorizations are for six (6) months of services. This alert is intended to notify providers that the MNC criteria will be enforced beginning July 1, 2020 in order to ensure that PRP services are delivered to only those who meet the clinically identified criteria.

From July 1, 2020 forward, PRP services will require prior authorization in order for claims to be considered payable. For dates of service July 1, 2020 until July 31, 2020, providers will be allowed to enter authorizations retrospectively throughout the month of July.

The current Medical Necessity Criteria against which eligibility will be verified may be accessed here:

- [PRP - Adult and Minors MNC](#)

The Incedo forms to be used in entering authorizations may be viewed here:

- [PRP - Adult Request \(Initial\)](#)
- [PRP - Adult Request \(Concurrent\)](#)
- [PRP - Minors Request \(Initial\)](#)
- [PRP - Minors Request \(Concurrent\)](#)

Optum Maryland would like to reassure providers that all of our services are operating as normal during the current national response to COVID-19. Providers can continue to contact us at 1 (800) 888-1965. After-hours and holidays will be covered by clinical night staff for crisis and emergency services.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team