



PROVIDER ALERT

Alert # 7.19.10
October 18, 2019

Updated Outpatient Authorization Requirements

In response to the request from providers to streamline the authorization process and in an effort to reduce the administrative burden on providers, Beacon Health Options of Pennsylvania (Beacon) is changing authorization requirements for traditional outpatient services for our in-network Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder providers. We value the outpatient level of care tremendously and want to ensure our procedures support our providers' abilities to focus primarily on the treatment of our members.

As such, on November 1, 2019, in-network providers will no longer be required to submit authorization requests for the following services:

1. **EXM - Outpatient Evaluations**
2. **RXM - Behavioral Health Medication Management/Evaluation Services**
3. **OUT - Individual, Group and Family Psychotherapy**
4. **DXM - Substance Use Disorder Medication Management/Evaluation Services**
5. **OPR - Substance Use Disorder Individual, Group and Family Psychotherapy**

Providers should refer to the Beacon [Covered Services Grid](#) for the service codes and modifiers for each service class listed.

Although in-network providers will not be required to request authorizations or register members in ProviderConnect to deliver any of the services listed in 1-5 above, providers must be able to demonstrate [medical necessity](#) per Beacon criteria if requested. Additionally, providers will be required to follow current compliance and quality documentation standards for each service provided to a HealthChoices member.

In-network providers may bill Beacon for any service rendered under the service classes 1-5 above, without having an authorization on file.

Any existing authorizations for the above listed services will be end-dated as of October 31, 2019, as they will no longer be necessary to pay a claim.

If you have any questions, please contact Beacon Health Options' Provider Services line at 877-615-8503.

As a provider, you are accountable for the information in this alert and when applicable, it will be incorporated into the Beacon Health Options of Pennsylvania's Provider Manual.
