



May 25, 2018

Web Announcement 1598

**Attention Provider Type 14 (Behavioral Health Outpatient Treatment):**

**Policy Reminder Regarding Session Limits for Individual, Group and Family Therapy**

An entity, agency or group enrolled as a provider type 14 (Behavioral Health Outpatient Treatment) is classified as a Behavioral Health Community Network (BHCN). All BHCNs must adhere to the regulations prescribed in the Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) Chapter 400 and all other applicable MSM chapters.

MSM Chapter 400, Section 403.5 C. 1. states: "For BHCN, all service limitations are based upon the Intensity of Needs Grid in the definitions. The recipient must have an Intensity of Needs determination to supplement clinical judgment and to determine the appropriate service utilization. The provider must document in the case notes the level that is determined from the Intensity of Needs grid."

MSM Chapter 400, Section 403.5 C. 4. contains the Medicaid Behavioral Health Intensity of Needs for Children and Adolescents, and Section 403.5 C. 5. contains the Medicaid Behavioral Health Intensity of Needs for Adults. These grids list the total number of Individual, Group and Family Therapy sessions (combined) which may be reimbursed for a recipient in a calendar year without prior authorization (PA). If the therapist determines that additional sessions are medically necessary, a PA request may be submitted. An approved PA, which must be listed on each applicable claim, allows medically necessary therapy beyond the listed limits.

The session limits are recipient specific, so each provider is responsible, as part of the recipient intake history, for verifying previous therapy received by the recipient in the current calendar year. If a detailed history cannot be obtained, it is recommended that the provider submit a PA request to ensure that they are in compliance with policy.

Claims which are paid for services in excess of the specified limits, without an approved PA listed on the claim, are subject to recoupment.

Please note that the information contained in this web announcement, which is supported by policy outlined in the MSM, supersedes any prior direction given regarding this matter.