



April 12, 2021

Web Announcement 2470

## **Attention Provider Type 63 (Residential Treatment Center/Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility): Reminder Regarding Elopement Policy**

The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) would like to remind Residential Treatment Centers (RTC)/Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) services providers of RTC and elopement policy.

Per [Medicaid Services Manual \(MSM\) Chapter 400](#) Mental Health and Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services Section 403.8.B, the objective of RTC services is to assist recipients who have behavioral, emotional, psychiatric and/or psychological disorders, or conditions, who are no longer at or appropriate for an acute level of care, or who cannot effectively receive services in a less restrictive setting and who meet medical necessity and admission criteria for RTC services.

The Code of Federal Regulations section 42 CFR 441.152 states: When certifying the need for RTC/PRTF services, providers are acknowledging that ambulatory care resources available in the community do not meet the treatment needs of the beneficiary and that proper treatment of the beneficiary's psychiatric condition requires services on an inpatient basis under the direction of a physician.

While not specifically spelled out in policy, the DHCFP would like to remind providers that the nature of RTCs/PRTFs are that they are facilities designed and capable of being locked in order to prevent elopements, which can be detrimental not only to the safety and well-being of the recipient, but of others as well. While MSM policy does not dictate what kind of education is required for recipients, it should be taken into consideration whether a recipient is safely able to go off-campus to attend school, to ensure that elopements do not occur while the recipient is off-campus. Arrangements should be made if concerns are warranted of the recipient possibly eloping to ensure that this does not occur.

If an elopement should occur, please reference [Web Announcement 2457](#) and submit a Critical Incident Report accordingly to Nevada Medicaid via the Behavioral Health inbox: [BehavioralHealth@dhcpf.nv.gov](mailto:BehavioralHealth@dhcpf.nv.gov) and the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center (NDALC) for in-state providers: [reports@ndalc.org](mailto:reports@ndalc.org) or other state-designated protection and advocacy agency for out-of-state providers. In addition, Critical Incident Reports must be submitted to the Nevada State Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC), for in-state providers, or other licensing agency for out-of-state providers.

Any time an elopement occurs, which would be considered when a recipient is out of line-of-sight of facility staff, the occurrence would be considered a discharge, no matter the length of time the recipient has been gone.

As such, providers need to submit the [Prior Authorization Data Correction Form \(FA-29\)](#) to state the date of elopement so that the current prior authorization is end-dated appropriately.

Prior to the recipient returning to the RTC/PRTF facility, a new initial prior authorization request will need to be submitted utilizing the [Residential Treatment Center Prior Authorization form \(FA-15\)](#).

As with any new initial prior authorization request, a Certificate of Need (CON) and current (within 6 months) psychiatric evaluation will need to be submitted, signed and dated by the physician. Accordingly, it is recommended providers perform psychiatric evaluations every 6 months in order to ensure there is always a current psychiatric evaluation available.

When submitting the FA-15 for admission after an elopement from the RTC/PRTF, please ensure that the elopement is addressed in the clinical documentation. Please describe in detail what may have triggered the elopement, how it was accomplished, and what type of activities may have occurred while the recipient was absent from the RTC/PRTF, such as use of substances, engagement in sexual activity, theft, any physical altercations, etc. Anything that might have had a

negative impact on the recipient should be included. In addition, please provide any information regarding the need to utilize law enforcement to resolve the situation.

More information regarding elopements and use of specific forms and how to submit these can be found in the Residential Treatment Center (RTC) (Provider Type 63) Provider Training presentation on the [Provider Training](#) webpage under Workshop Materials.

For more information regarding policy requirements or for any other questions, please send an email to: [BehavioralHealth@dncfp.nv.gov](mailto:BehavioralHealth@dncfp.nv.gov)