

PROVIDER UPDATE

An Update for Highmark Health Options Providers and Clinicians

Substance Abuse Treatment Prior Authorization Procedure Change

Effective Immediately

When Prior Authorization is Not Required

Effective immediately, Highmark Health Options will not require prior authorization for the:

- first 14 days of Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment,
- first 5 days of Withdraw Management Treatment, and
- first 30 days for Intensive Outpatient Services provided to Highmark Health Options members for the purpose of treating drug and alcohol dependencies.

When Prior Authorization is Required

Providers are required to submit a prior authorization should a service exceed:

- 14 days for Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment,
- 5 days for Withdraw Management Treatment, and
- 30 days for Intensive Outpatient Services.

Highmark Health Options will review services using the ASAM criteria.

Notification of an Admission Required

Providers are required to notify Highmark Health Options within 48 hours of admission. A 48-hour Behavioral Health (BH) Notification Form is available via website at highmarkhealthoptions.com or by calling Behavioral Health at 1-844-325-6251. Upon notifying Highmark Health Options providers will be given a reference number.

Retrospective Review

Claims for substance abuse treatment services will be retrospectively reviewed by Highmark Health Option's Payment Integrity Group.