

Beacon/MBHP Broadcast

A communication from Beacon Health Options including the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership

Broadcast 9 // September 6, 2019

Important: Please read this Broadcast carefully and share it with all appropriate clinical and administrative staff.*

MEDICAL NECESSITY CRITERIA

Effective September 21, 2019, Beacon Health Options/Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (Beacon/MBHP) will begin using Change Healthcare's InterQual® medical necessity criteria (MNC) to guide clinical decisions in the context of precertification, concurrent review, level of care, discharge planning, and retrospective review. Using nationally recognized criteria is consistent with mental health parity requirements, and we anticipate this transition to be seamless for providers.

Please note:

- There is **no change** to state-specific and certain diversionary levels of care.
- There is **no change** to substance use disorder criteria (ASAM or other state criteria remain the same).
- Current **processes and workflows remain the same** (such as authorization process); only the criteria are changing.
- Providers should not submit authorization requests through InterQual. The Beacon/MBHP authorization **process remains the same**.

Why is this change being made? As part of normal operations, Beacon/MBHP reviews and updates medical necessity criteria for mental health services. To streamline this process and align with industry standards, Beacon/MBHP has decided to use a nationally recognized, peer-reviewed, and evidence-based criteria. InterQual Level of Care Criteria represent a compilation of best practices drawn from current behavioral health evidence. We believe that the evidence-based care guidelines published by InterQual will help providers and health plans enhance best practices and patient outcomes.

Trainings on the new MNC will be held from September 10 – 24, 2019. Visit www.masspartnership.com/provider/EventsAndTrainings.aspx to register.

Additional Information

If you have questions regarding this Broadcast, please contact our Community Relations Department at **1-800-495-0086 (press 1 for the English menu or 2 for the Spanish menu, then 3 then 1 to skip prompts)**, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*This Broadcast applies to all Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that are partnered with Beacon Health Options or the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) including **BeHealthy Partnership, Boston Medical Center HealthNet Plan (BMCHP), Community Care Cooperative (C3), Fallon Health, Partners HealthCare Choice, the PCC Plan, Senior Whole Health, Steward Health Choice, Well Sense, and Unicare.**