

## PROVIDER BULLETIN

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### PSYCHOTHERAPY BULLETIN PHYSICIAN (PSYCHIATRIST), PCNS, MHNP, PSYCHOLOGIST, LCSW, LPC, RHC AND FQHC

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#### **CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE PSYCHOLOGY PRIOR AUTHORIZATION CLOSING DATE**

All Psychology Prior Authorizations (PA) issued for children in Foster Care (ME Codes 07, 08, 37, and 38) during any calendar year will have an authorized through date of December 31<sup>st</sup> of that same year. For example, any Psychology PA issued during 2008 will close effective December 31, 2008, regardless of any remaining unused units left on the PA.

Should a patient currently in treatment need ongoing services, a new PA period will begin on January 1, 2009. Providers may begin requesting a new authorization immediately under the guidelines outlined in Psychotherapy Bulletin Volume 30, Number 27, dated November 30, 2007. The bulletin may be accessed online at [www.dss.mo.gov/mhd](http://www.dss.mo.gov/mhd).

**REMINDER:** Providers who have been paid for services in excess of four (4) hours for a participant in the last rolling year will not receive four (4) additional non-prior authorized hours for that participant.

#### **CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION CLARIFICATIONS AND CHANGES**

#### **MULTIPLE FAMILY THERAPY AUTHORIZATIONS FOR NON-RELATED CHILDREN RESIDING IN SAME HOUSEHOLD**

An initial PA for Family Therapy may be authorized per household for up to ten (10) hours without submission of documentation. Subsequent authorizations for additional hours may be requested by submitting the Psychological Services Request for Prior Authorization form, current Assessment, current Treatment Plan, and last 3 Progress Notes. The need for multiple authorizations for Family Therapy within a household may be issued based upon Clinical Review, and must be documented in

the Treatment Plan. Requests for multiple authorizations within the same household must be recommended by the Family Support Team.

## **AUTHORIZATIONS OF FAMILY THERAPY FOR BOTH FOSTER AND BIOLOGICAL FAMILIES**

Family Therapy will be issued on behalf of a child with distribution to biological and/or foster parent based upon the documented need in the Treatment Plan and the recommendation of the Family Support Team. An initial PA may be authorized for up to ten (10) hours without submission of documentation. Subsequent authorizations for additional hours may be requested by submitting the Psychological Services Request for Prior Authorization form, current Assessment, current Treatment Plan, and last 3 Progress Notes.

## **TRANSITION OF CHILD TO A NEW THERAPIST**

An authorization of five (5) hours for transition to the new therapist will be allowed without submission of documentation. The authorization request can be made by phone or fax. These five (5) hours are in addition to the four (4) non-PAd hours. In order for a new therapist to obtain authorization, the active PA must be closed. If additional hours are needed, the provider may request more hours by submitting the Psychological Services Request for Prior Authorization form, current Assessment, current Treatment Plan, and last 3 Progress Notes. When appropriate, the therapist may also provide Assessment, Testing, and Crisis Intervention services without an authorization for children ages 3 and older.

Please refer to MO HealthNet Psychotherapy Bulletin Volume 30, Number 27 dated November 30, 2007 for additional information regarding PA for Foster Care Children.

**Provider Bulletins** are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

**MO HealthNet News:** Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.missouri.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

**MO HealthNet Managed Care:** The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the red MO HealthNet card or by calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-635-8908 and using Option One for the red or white card.

**Provider Communications Hotline  
573-751-2896**