



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration

Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin, LCSW-C
Acting Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Jurisdictional Treatment Coordinators

From: Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin, Acting Director, ADAA *Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin*

Date: July 1, 2013

Re: ADAA Conditions of Grant Award – Pre-authorizations of admissions to residential services

It is our understanding that there is some confusion about the new ADAA Condition of Grant Award regarding pre-authorization for admissions to residential services purchased with ADAA funds. The condition is stated below:

The grantee shall pre-authorize all admissions purchased with ADAA funds to Levels III.7, III.5, III.3, III.1 and to recovery housing. No patient will be admitted to an ADAA-funded residential treatment bed unless an evaluation determining that the ASAM Patient Placement Criteria for the level of care has been completed prior to admission and a Care Coordinator has been assigned to the patient. The evaluation must be performed by an independent entity not employed by the residential program to which the patient is being admitted. The grantee shall submit a plan describing how this requirement will be accomplished and submit it to the Administration by July 1, 2013. The grantee shall accomplish this requirement in adherence with the procedures and timetable established in their ADAA-approved plan.

We would like to clarify a few points.

As discussed during the jurisdictional treatment and prevention coordinators meeting on April 24, 2013, this condition is being put in place to ensure that jurisdictions are aware of their residents entering into grant-funded treatment. This is being done for two reasons. One is that the jurisdiction should be assured that an individual placed into residential care, which is an expensive level of care

with limited availability, meets ASAM criteria for that service. It is standard practice in medicine to pre-authorize any admission into a hospital or rehabilitation level of care because of the need for cost efficiencies. Second, it is critical that patients successfully transfer from one level of care to the next. The jurisdiction has the opportunity to implant a Care Coordinator into the treatment process when it is involved in the original placement into residential care.

Although the jurisdiction's plan detailing how this condition will be accomplished is due July 1, 2013, the ADAA recognizes that the implementation of this plan may be delayed due to the need to put arrangements in place. Therefore, as stated in the condition above, the practice of pre-authorizing admissions does not need to begin July 1. However, the plan should contain timeframes for accomplishing the new practice.

Also, the requirement that the evaluation to determine level of care be performed by someone other than the residential program does not mean the evaluation must be performed by staff employed by the jurisdiction. The jurisdiction may designate another entity to be its proxy with regard to evaluation and/or authorization for residential services. For example, the evaluation may be performed by a referral entity such as a hospital. In this case, the jurisdiction should develop an agreement with the hospital that includes a mechanism to communicate information regarding the prospective admission to residential services. The critical point is to give the jurisdiction the opportunity to ensure the level of care is appropriate and to coordinate care for individuals entering residential services.

The ADAA also recognizes that the jurisdictional treatment coordinator authorization may not be available 24/7. Therefore, the ADAA is willing to consider authorization procedures that have already been adopted in the medical system. For instance, to avoid delaying an admission, the MCOs have allowed admission into services for up to 3 days prior to authorization with the understanding that if the admission is ultimately not approved, then the MCO would not reimburse for those days of services.

In cases where the jurisdiction is the direct provider of residential services (Allegany, Kent, Washington), the ADAA recognizes that the evaluator will be employed by the same entity that manages the residential program. This Condition of Grant Award will be waived in those circumstances.

Please feel free to contact Debbie Green (410-402-8591) if you have questions or need further clarification.