

May 2015

Dear Hospital and Health Service Providers:

Re: Reimbursement for Opioid Detoxification Services Provided at an Inpatient Hospital Level of Care

Beginning July 1, 2015, admissions to an inpatient hospital for opioid detoxification must meet medical necessity criteria in order to be reimbursable through Vermont Medicaid. The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) utilizes the McKesson *InterQual*® *Level of Care Criteria*. These nationally recognized, evidence-based criteria will be used to determine the medical necessity of any inpatient admission submitted to the DVHA for reimbursement.

The DVHA, in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP), recognize the need for Vermont Medicaid members who are experiencing opioid addiction to receive the necessary treatment at the appropriate level of care to meet their individual needs. As such, the DVHA and ADAP expect that Vermont Medicaid members who are in need of treatment for opioid addiction are referred for an assessment by a qualified substance abuse treatment professional who will then refer the member to the appropriate level of care for treatment.

All psychiatric and non-opioid detoxification inpatient services for both in-state and out-of-state admissions will continue to follow the current authorization process and reimbursement standards. For all psychiatric and detoxification admissions, the admitting facility must complete the *Vermont Medicaid Admission Notification Form for Psychiatric Inpatient Services* and fax it to the DVHA at **1-855-275-1212** within 24 hours or next business day of an urgent or emergent admission. All individuals enrolled in CRT, children and adolescents will continue to require a screening by a Community Mental Health Center prior to admission. Notification forms are posted on the DVHA website at <http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/forms-1>.

The DVHA and ADAP will be contacting you shortly to schedule a meeting to provide you with additional information including the contact information for substance abuse professionals in your area who are qualified to provide assessments for Vermont Medicaid members in need of treatment for opioid addiction.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Thomas, Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs at 802-951-5730 or Megan Mitchell, Department of Vermont Health Access at 802-879-8232.

Respectfully,



Harry Chen, MD, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Health



Steven Costantino, Commissioner
Department of Vermont Health Access