



February 16, 2024

Nevada Medicaid Web Announcement 3281

Attention Provider Type 63 (Residential Treatment Center/Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility):

Initial Prior Authorization Requests for Youth

Effective immediately, initial prior authorization (PA) requests may be submitted by provider type (PT) 63 (Residential Treatment Center (RTC)/Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)) within 10 business days upon the re-admission of a youth for the following reasons:

- Elopements (which constitute as a discharge no matter how long the youth was gone from the facility);
- Youth going to an acute/emergency room (ER) setting and being gone for more than 24 hours, which would then be considered as a discharge;
- Any re-admission of a youth back to the PT 63 after an inpatient acute stay for in-state PT 63s only (For example: The youth escalates at the PT 63 and then requires an inpatient hospital stay for stabilization, with the plan to have the PT 63 re-admit the youth once the youth has been stabilized).

The intent behind this policy is that youth can be returned/re-admitted during odd hours when the writer of the PA request may not be in the facility to be able to submit a new request prior to the return/re-admission. Since a current/within six months psychiatric evaluation needs to be submitted with initial PA request submissions, this will also allow time for a new psychiatric evaluation to be completed in the event the facility does not have a current, within six months psychiatric evaluation to submit.

In addition, this policy will prevent Nevada youth staying in hospitals when this Level of Care (LOC) is no longer required and the hospital has determined a return to a PRTF LOC is needed, and the PRTF of record is ready to take the youth back. The hospital will be allowed to discharge the youth into an appropriate LOC, while also opening available beds for other youth needing to be at the acute LOC.

For further information/clarification, please send an email to the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy Behavioral Health Unit at: BehavioralHealth@dncfp.nv.gov