IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ THIS BULLETIN CAREFULLY AND SHARE IT WITH ALL APPROPRIATE CLINICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

Effective October 1, 2015, prior authorization will no longer be required for Substance Use Treatment Services in Massachusetts.

SUMMARY
In response to Massachusetts Chapter 258, “An Act to Increase Opportunities for Long-Term Substance Abuse Recovery,” Beacon Health Options (Beacon) will be removing prior authorization requirements for substance use treatment services, effective October 1, 2015 for Medicaid, Medicare, and Commercial lines of business. Beacon requests that providers adhere to the below processes for all plans whose behavioral health benefits are managed by Beacon, including: Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan (BMCHP), Fallon Health, Neighborhood Health Plan (NHP), Senior Whole Health, and the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) for Tufts Health Plan and UniCare State Indemnity Plan.

MEDICALLY MANAGED/LEVEL 4 DETOX
Prior authorization will no longer be required for in-network providers. Providers are required to submit a notification of admission through Beacon’s eservices portal within 48 hours of admission (please see attached for information on registering for Beacon’s eservices portal). Upon completion of the notification of admission, an authorization will automatically be generated to cover a period of 7 days. Discharges can be submitted online. If additional units are being requested, please contact Beacon for additional authorizations.

ACUTE TREATMENT SERVICES (ATS)/LEVEL 3.7 DETOX
No process changes at this time. In-network providers will continue to submit a notification of admission through Beacon’s eservices portal within 48 hours of admission (please see attached for information on registering for Beacon’s eservices portal). Upon completion of the notification of admission, an authorization will automatically be generated to cover a period of 6 days. Discharge reviews can continue to be completed via e-services. If additional units are requested, please contact Beacon.

DUAL DIAGNOSIS ACUTE TREATMENT (DDAT)
Prior authorization will no longer be required for in-network providers. Providers are required to call Beacon to request authorization on day 3 of treatment. The first 3 days of treatment will be authorization-free. If additional units are required, contact Beacon for authorization on the third day of treatment.

CLINICAL STABILIZATION SERVICES (CSS)
Prior authorization will no longer be required for in-network providers. Providers are required to submit a notification of admission through Beacon’s eservices portal within 48 hours of admission. Upon completion of the notification of admission, an authorization will automatically be generated to cover 10 units. If additional units are being requested, please contact Beacon, as up to 14 units will be covered prior to a review for medical necessity. Providers are encouraged to contact Beacon to provide discharge information.
STRUCTURED OUTPATIENT ADDICTIONS PROGRAMS (SOAP)
No process changes at this time. In-network providers will continue to receive 20 units of service within 45 days without an authorization. If continued treatment is needed beyond 20 units within 45 days, please call Beacon for authorization.

INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT PROGRAMS (IOP)
Prior authorization is no longer required for the first 6 units of treatment within 14 days. If continued treatment is required, please call Beacon to request authorization.

FAMILY STABILIZATION TEAM (FST)
For members with this benefit, no authorization is required by in-network providers if services are for a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder.

OUTPATIENT THERAPY
Outpatient therapy provided by in-network providers that is for a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder will no longer require authorization.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT
No process changes will be taking place. Office visits for medication assisted treatment such as Methadone Maintenance, Suboxone, and Vivitrol do not require authorization.

Please note: For GIC members only, no prior authorization is required for substance use treatment by an out-of-network provider, as long as the provider is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

If you need assistance with eservices, please visit our website at www.beaconhs.com, and click on Provider Tools to access our eservices manual.

If you have any questions about the above changes, please contact the Provider Relations Department at provider.relations@beaconhs.com or (781) 994-7556.

Please use the below contact information for the relevant plan when authorization is needed:
Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan (BMCHP): 866-444-5155
Fallon Health: 888-421-8861
Group Insurance Commission (GIC) for Tufts and UniCare: 855-750-8980
Neighborhood Health Plan: 800-414-2820
Senior Whole Health: 888-794-7268

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
Visit www.beaconhealthstrategies.com and choose Provider, then Provider Tools, or email provider.relations@beaconhs.com for questions about claims, authorizations or other matters.
Beacon's Provider eServices
Save Time. Save Resources. Get Priority Service.
Check member eligibility & benefits. Submit claims & authorization requests; View status.
Register for eServices now! https://provider.beaconhs.com