



## Utilization Management/Prior Authorization for Behavioral Health Services

Effective **1/1/2025**, prior authorization requirements and utilization management were suspended for a variety of services while the state reviewed our requirements and guidelines for compliance with the **Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA)**.

The state has completed its review and approved continuation of the prior authorization requirements as outlined in our **Authorization Lookup Tool** and **BH Authorization Guidelines and FAQ document**. Please note that the Authorization Lookup Tool only indicates whether authorization is on or off for a particular service. It does not show unmanaged units or pass-through allowances.

Based on the state's guidance, prior authorization and concurrent review requirements for the following services will resume on **10/1/2025**. Given the short notification period, WellCare will accept **retro requests** for these behavioral health services through **12/31/2025**. Whenever possible, please submit requests in advance of services.

The following services will resume prior authorization requirements as of **10/1/2025**. Many of these services include a pass-through period or initial unmanaged units. Additional details for covered Standard Plan services are available in the **BH Authorization Guidelines and FAQ document**.

- Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Services (ASAM 3.7WM)
- Substance Abuse Comprehensive Outpatient Treatment (SACOT – ASAM 2.5): H2035
- Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Treatment (SAIOP – ASAM 2.1): H0015
- Partial Hospitalization: H0035
- Geropsychiatric Units in Nursing Facilities
- Facility-Based Crisis (youth and adult services): S9484
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Services (including psychotherapy and psychological/neuropsychological services)
- Peer Support Services: H0038

**Utilization management requirements remain unchanged for the following services:**

- Research-Based Behavioral Health Treatments: 97151–97157
- Inpatient Behavioral Health Services and Inpatient Substance Use Services, including ASAM 4.0WM and ASAM 4.0 (beyond the 72-hour pass-through)
- Services provided by out-of-network providers
- Services covered only under EPSDT