



Utilization Management/Prior Authorization for Behavioral Health Services:

As of 1/1/25, prior authorization requirements and utilization management is currently suspended for the following services:

- Medically Monitoring Inpatient Withdrawal Services (ASAM 3.7WM)
- Ambulatory Withdrawal Management with and Without Extended On-site Monitoring (ASAM 1WM and ASAM 2WM)
- Substance Abuse Comprehensive Outpatient Treatment (SACOT)
- Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Treatment (SAIOP)
- Partial hospitalization
- Geropsychiatric Units in Nursing Facilities
- Facility Based Crisis (both youth and adult services)
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Services (including psychotherapies and psychological/neuropsychological services)
- Peer Support Services

WellCare of North Carolina is working closely with the NC Division of Health Benefits to review utilization management guidelines due to changes to state clinical coverage policies based on the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA).

At this time, utilization requirements remain for the following services:

- Research Based Behavioral Health Treatments
- Inpatient Behavioral Health Services and Inpatient Substance Use Services (beyond the 72-hour pass-through).

Other services that continue to require authorization include out of network services, as well as services coverable only under EPSDT.

Once we have completed our review with the state, we will communicate details on any authorization requirements or utilization management requirements that are reinstated.