

September 6, 2012

Received via email

To Whom It May Concern:

We have reviewed the description of benefits under the proposed plan (Kaiser 1200D) and are interested in trying to determine if benefits will be available for acute inpatient care for chemical dependency. (We have a unit that has been endorsed by the state for inpatient acute treatment of chemical dependency in adolescents. Typical length of stay is about forty-two days. We have exceptional outcomes.) The Kaiser plan has Inpatient Medical and Surgical benefits under category 3 and has Mental Health and Substance Abuse benefits under category 5. Also under category 5, benefits are further defined including treatment for alcoholism and drug dependency and treatment for inpatient hospitalization for mental health and substance abuse. Our concern is that we have found, from time to time, that insurance benefits for inpatient hospitalization for mental health and substance abuse is limited to detox and acute conditions associated with chemical abuse.

It has been indisputably documented over time that effort expended and dollars invested in treating chemical dependency in adolescents is highly cost effective across a broad spectrum. By resolving chemical dependency in teenagers, society saves significant amounts of money over the person's life. The costs associated with ongoing emergency services associated with addiction and services associated with the medical conditions that manifest (as a result of the addiction) over the person's life are completely eliminated. In addition, non-medical services are dramatically reduced including costs associated with Social Services, Judicial System, Law Enforcement and ultimately the Penal System. (The recovered person will also not be a contributing factor to other person's addictions.)

We strongly urge the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange to be sure that benefits for this category of services are included in the standardized benefit package. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important benefit

Sincerely,

James J. Markuson

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