



INFORMATIONAL MEMO

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DIVISION AND OFFICE: UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT, COST CONTROL AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT OFFICE

PROGRAM AREA: INPATIENT HOSPITAL REVIEW

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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Informational Memo is to inform hospitals of resources for the implementation of the inpatient hospital review program, as required of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) by Senate Bill 18-266, Controlling Medicaid Costs.

Future updates about this program will be provided via e-newsletters to stakeholders. To sign up for these updates, please [sign up here and choose "Hospital Engagement Meeting."](#)

Information:

Description and Goals

Under Senate Bill 18-266 Controlling Medicaid Costs, the Department is charged with implementing an **evidence-based hospital review program to ensure that the utilization of hospital services is based on a recipient's need for care.**

The Inpatient Hospital Review Program will include industry standard review processes for fee-for-service non-behavioral health admissions, including:

- **Preadmission Certification** including preauthorization for planned, elective, urgent/emergent, holiday or weekend admissions with guidance on length of stay and care settings.
- **Continued Stay and Complex Case Reviews** including review of authorized admissions with greater than a four-day length of stay to ensure there are no early discharges that might potentially result in readmissions or inappropriate medical services.
- **Retrospective Claims Reviews** including review of clinical documentation to ensure the appropriateness of medical necessity for certain claims.

The goals of the inpatient hospital review program include:

- Improving Medicaid members' quality of care
- Facilitating better care planning and care transitions
- Ensuring services occur in appropriate care settings with the optimal stay length based on members' needs
- Monitoring hospitals to assure appropriate billing practices
- Providing timely, accurate information and tools to partners who can then reach out to high-needs members

Implementation

The Department has expanded its partnership with eQHealth, which already supports prior authorization requests for Colorado providers serving Medicaid members. Because most Colorado hospitals already have established a connection with eQHealth, technical and training issues will be simplified.

Training on the current eQSuite is available now (see below for details). Training on the new Inpatient Review Program is scheduled to start in January 2019, with the requirement for review submissions starting after March 1, 2019.

The Department will provide a 60-day notice of the final effective date of the program.

Methodology

Some of the content that will be reviewed in the inpatient hospital review program includes:

- Information provided, diagnosis determined, and treatment recommended by the treating provider(s)
- Evidence-based clinical coverage criteria and recipient coverage guidelines established by the Department, which rely on nationally accepted clinical standards that align with national practice guidelines
- Nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines and industry standard criteria as appropriate, based on a comprehensive literature review of the clinical evidence. Sources include:
 - The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
 - Comparative Effectiveness Reviews
 - National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
 - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
 - The Joint Commission

Other medical literature databases, medical content providers, data sources, regulatory body websites, and specialty society resources may also be utilized.

The Hospital Review Program will provide daily data feeds to Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) with member diagnosis and treatment plans. These daily data feeds will highlight opportunities for discharge planning, care coordination and case management for patients who are at risk for re-admission and in need of care transition support.

Resources

Two training modules will be available via live and recorded webinars:

1. **Basic eQSuite training** to orient hospitals new to eQSuite or new staff at established hospitals. This training includes how to connect to eQSuite.
2. **Inpatient Hospital Review training** for all hospitals.

The Department and eQHealth recommend that hospitals take Basic eQHealth training prior to attending Inpatient Hospital Review Program training.

Training opportunities will be described in future Provider Bulletins and on the [Department's provider website](#), which also has links for registration, previously recorded trainings and additional support resources.

Additionally, the Department in conjunction with eQHealth will be holding live question and answer sessions starting January 2019. Notice of these sessions will be [posted on the provider website](#) and provided via e-newsletters.

Progress on the inpatient hospital review program and other SB18-266 initiatives can be found on the Department's webpage [Controlling Medicaid Costs Initiatives](#) or by signing up for the Department's [Hospital Engagement Meeting e-newsletter](#).

Attachment(s):

None

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