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SUBJECT:

Prior-Authorization of Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS)

BY:

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SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers who render Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) to children, youth, and young adults under 21 years of age who receive services in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program fee-for-service (FFS) delivery system.

This bulletin does not apply to services provided in the managed care delivery system. Providers rendering services in the managed care delivery system should address questions about authorization of IBHS to the appropriate managed care organization.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to:

1. Inform providers that the Department will require prior authorizations of the services identified in this bulletin and rendered to eligible children, youth, and young adults under 21 years of age who receive services through the MA Program FFS delivery system.
2. Issue instructions on how to request prior authorization of IBHS that require prior authorization.

BACKGROUND:

On October 19, 2019, the Department of Human Services promulgated 55 Pa. Code Chapters 1155 and 5240, which codified the minimum standards for licensing and MA payment conditions for agencies that deliver IBHS to children, youth, and young adults under 21 years of age with mental, emotional and behavioral health needs. The regulations replaced the requirements for Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) previously set forth in bulletins issued by the Department. IBHS includes individual services, applied behavior analysis (ABA) services, group services, and evidence-based therapy (EBT) delivered through individual services, ABA services or group services. Individual services are delivered through behavior consultation services, mobile therapy services, and behavioral health technician

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
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(BHT) services. ABA services are delivered through behavior analytic services, behavior consultation–ABA services, assistant behavior consultation–ABA (Assistant BC-ABA) services and BHT-ABA services. Group services are delivered by graduate-level professionals and individuals who meet the qualifications to provide BHT services or BHT-ABA services.

DISCUSSION:

The following IBHS require prior authorization:

1. **Individual Services:** BHT services
2. **ABA:** Assistant BC-ABA and BHT-ABA services
3. **Group Services**

PROCEDURE:

The *Handbook for Prior Authorization of Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) Rendered in the Fee-for-Services Delivery System* provides instructions for submitting prior authorization requests for IBHS. As required by 55 Pa. Code § 1101.67(a), providers must follow the instructions in the handbook for submitting prior authorization requests.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: *Handbook for Prior Authorization of Intensive Behavioral Health Services Rendered (IBHS) in the Fee-for-Services Delivery System*