Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MCPs) may cover IMD services effective 7/1/2017

Policy Update

Starting July 1, 2017, Ohio will implement 42 C.F.R. 438.6 in the federal managed care regulations to allow for Medicaid recipients age 21 through 64, who receive their Medicaid benefits through a MCP, to receive inpatient treatment in an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD). In addition, it allows MCPs to receive a full monthly capitation payment on behalf of MCP members if stays do not exceed fifteen (15) days in any calendar month.

Intended Outcome:
Medicaid recipients, age 21 through 64, enrolled and receiving their Medicaid services through an MCP, will have access to medically necessary and reimbursable treatment in an IMD setting. In addition, MCPs will receive funding to cover the costs for inpatient stays at an IMD regardless of a recipient’s age.

The policy will implement 42 C.F.R. 438.6 in the federal managed care regulations that expands the Medicaid-reimbursable inpatient psychiatric provider network to give Medicaid MCP members access to more timely, medically appropriate, and cost-effective services by allowing IMDs to be used in addition to other covered settings, such as inpatient psychiatric units in general medical hospitals.

Note: OhioMHAS-operated state hospitals will continue to serve as a safety net network and will operate as an out-of-network provider network for managed care plans.

Role of Plans:
MCPs will work with their members and provider networks on assessing an individual’s need for care to determine both the level of care and the appropriate care setting. MCPs will coordinate with the admitting facility to ensure proper care and transition of members back into the community, which may include coordinating with community mental health services and providers.

Role of Local Crisis Providers Who Handle the Coordination of Psychiatric Hospital Admissions:
Crisis providers will continue to function as they do today, but will need to work with the MCP for coordinating admission to IMD facilities when necessary. MCPs will work closely with providers for coordinating care and services for members. More information is available on MCPs’ websites.

Additional Resource:
For additional details on these IMD updates, please refer to the IMD FAQs found on Ohio’s Behavioral Health Redesign website.