



Dear Fee For Services Medi-Cal Provider:

Please find below additional information pertaining to the NEW MILD – MODERATE- SEVERE PROCESS changes effective September 1, 2016:

Note: Previous communications regarding this process change are available for your review on our website at www.optumsandiego.com under the Communication Tab in the Fee For Services Provider Section: OPTUMIST Newsletter Spring 2016, Optum Public Sector – Changes to the Authorization Process – September 1, 2016, OPTUMIST Newsletter Summer 2016)

As stated in previous communications the Outpatient (OP) authorization and review process for FFS Medi-Cal Providers is changing to ensure the beneficiaries are being referred to the most appropriate level of care as stated below:

- **Mild to Moderate:** Primary Care Providers/Physicians (PCP), Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) or Health Plan Behavioral Health (BH) network also referred to as the Managed Care Plan (Care1st, Community Health Group, Health Net, Kaiser, and Molina).
- **Severe:** County Clinic, FQHC, Organizational Providers, or County FFS Provider Network.

The philosophy of short-term therapy will be phased out for the FFS provider network, with an emphasis towards best practice, evidence based treatment for the specific mental health condition of the client.

All FFS Medi-Cal Providers regardless of License type (MD/DO, PNP, Psychologist, LMFT, LCSW etc.) that render Outpatient (OP) services to San Diego Medi-Cal beneficiaries (*This does NOT include Medication Management services*).

- MD/DO/PNP – Only MD/DO/PNPs that provide OP Psychotherapy services will be required to follow the new process at this time.

New Forms – Attached (A form fill version will be available on the Optum Public Sector website by 09/01/2016.)

Outpatient Authorization Request Form (OAR)

- The OAR must be completed and submitted:
 - For every new Medi-Cal Beneficiary following the initial assessment when authorization is being requested for sessions subsequent to that initial assessment, and
 - When continuing authorization is requested when all the sessions previously authorized have been used or have expired.
 - Note: On 09/01/2016 and after any current authorizations will be valid through the number of sessions that were approved OR until the expiration of the authorization.
- The OAR is NOT required:
 - If/when you have completed an Initial Assessment and the client is determined to be **Mild to Moderate** and you are not requesting sessions beyond the assessment.

San Diego County Mental Health Services Demographic Form

- The Demographic form is to be submitted with the Initial OAR or
- With the claim for an Initial Assessment when you are not requesting additional sessions subsequent to that Initial Assessment

WebEx Invitation: Optum Public Sector Mild-Moderate-Severe Protocol:

Optum is inviting you to participate in a one hour webinar where education will be provided on the new protocol and Outpatient Authorization Request Form (OAR) with an opportunity to ask questions.

The Webinar will be offered three times for your convenience. Please review the information below to determine the best day and time for your schedule; a recording will be provided on our website at www.optumsandiego.com later this month if you are unable to attend.

The dates and times are listed below and a separate invitation will be sent out for each meeting:

Note: Each [Join WebEx meeting](#) below is a unique link to that specific meeting.

<p>Optum Public Sector - Mild-Moderate-Severe Protocol Tuesday, August 9, 2016 10:00 am Pacific Daylight Time (San Francisco, GMT-07:00) 1 hr Join WebEx meeting Meeting number: 643 371 358 Join by phone US\Canada: 1-763-957-6300</p>
<p>Optum Public Sector - Mild-Moderate-Severe Protocol Wednesday, August 17, 2016 12:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time (San Francisco, GMT-07:00) 1 hr Join WebEx meeting Meeting number: 644 924 724 Meeting password: 1234 Join by phone US\Canada: 1-763-957-6300</p>
<p>Optum Public Sector - Mild-Moderate-Severe Protocol Monday, August 29, 2016 4:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time (San Francisco, GMT-07:00) 1 hr Join WebEx meeting Meeting number: 646 925 888 Meeting password: 1234 Join by phone US\Canada: 1-763-957-6300</p>

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The County of San Diego HHS and Optum greatly appreciate the work you do and look forward to our continued collaboration in the future.

Thank you

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