IHCP temporarily reinstates revisions to PA process for acute care hospital non-elective inpatient admissions

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on or after August 30, 2021, and until further notice, Indiana Medicaid is instituting a streamlined prior authorization (PA) process for acute care hospital non-elective inpatient admissions. This change is in response to the recent increase of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases and hospitalizations across the state of Indiana.

For non-elective admissions and inter-hospital transfers necessary to increase bed capacity, acute care hospitals will only be required to submit basic information on the IHCP Prior Authorization Request Form (universal PA form), available from the Forms webpage at in.gov/medicaid/providers, or electronically through the managed care entity (MCE) provider portal or the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) Provider Healthcare Portal (Portal). Clinical documentation is not required but may still be submitted to support the assignment of health plan care managers to patients in need of support services.

Authorizations will be automatically approved for a period of 60 days, unless fewer days are requested by the provider, from date of admission of the IHCP member. Acute care hospitals must submit the PA request within 72 hours of the member's admission and will receive a confirmation response from the MCE with which the member is enrolled, or from Gainwell Technologies for services delivered under the fee-for-service (FFS) system. For continuation of services beyond the initial approved period, the provider must update the existing PA with clinical documentation.

The following information remains required on the IHCP Prior Authorization Request Form (universal PA form) or electronic equivalent through the MCE’s portal or IHCP Portal:

- Rendering provider number
- Rendering provider tax ID
- Rendering provider address
- Member ID (also known as RID)
- Member name
- Member date of birth
- Start date of request
- Stop date of request
- Procedure, service or revenue code
- International Classification of Diseases (ICD) diagnosis code
- Preparer name
- Preparer phone
- Number of units
- Signature
Inpatient psychiatric and substance use disorder (SUD) admissions are not subject to this temporary PA process and continue to require a completed universal PA form or PA request submitted electronically through the appropriate managed care portal or the IHCP Portal with clinical information attached. Elective services, including elective surgeries, are not affected by the revised process described in this bulletin and continue to require a complete authorization and clinicals as required by each MCE and Gainwell Technologies.

QUESTIONS?
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