

Updated prior authorization requirements related to substance use disorder services

What are the requirements and when do they go into effect?

The following will be implemented in accordance with [House Bill 2642](#) “No Wrong Door” legislation for services on and after January 1, 2021:

1. Prohibits prior authorization for withdrawal management services and inpatient/residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services.
2. Requires a minimum covered benefit of two business days for inpatient/residential SUD treatment and three calendar days* for withdrawal management services prior to initiating utilization review.
3. Behavioral health agencies must notify the MCO within 24 hours of the admission
4. After the initial two- or three-day required payment period, MCOs follow regular concurrent review processes to evaluate whether or not ongoing care meets medical necessity requirements. If a denial is issued, the provider then may appeal and the enrollee also has the right to appeal any denial through usual processes.

* Calendar days are used unless the legislation marks days as *business days*, thus, three days is defined as three calendar days. *Business days* means Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific time, except for holidays observed by the state of Washington. Holidays are defined in contract as holidays recognized by WA state (WA Statute RCW: 1.16.050[1]).

What SUD services does this apply to?

The following American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) levels of care apply to the terms used in the legislation:

- **Withdrawal Management:** ASAM levels — 3.2, 3.7
- **Residential SUD Treatment:** ASAM levels — 3.1, 3.3, 3.5
- **Inpatient SUD Treatment:** ASAM levels — 3.7

What if I need assistance?

Resources and forms can be found on the Washington provider website under [Prior Authorization Requirements](#). If you have questions about this communication, call Provider Services at **1-800-454-3730**.