



October 15, 2009

Dear Behavioral Health Provider:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia, Inc. (BCBSGa) is pleased to provide you information regarding changes to our benefits plans that reflect access to expanded care, additionally, BCBSGa would like to remind you of pre-certification requirements.

Federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPA)

MHPA, which becomes effective October 3, 2009, amends ERISA and requires “parity” between the financial requirements and treatment coverage applied to medical benefits and mental health and substance abuse (MHSA) disorder benefits. This law affects all fully insured and administrative services only (ASO) plans covering 51+ employees, with effective dates on or after 10/3. BCBSGa will be enhancing our fully insured members’ standard plans and products for all group sizes to provide parity between medical and MHSA services. The enhanced standard plans and products will also be provided to our ASO only employer groups.

What will change for the groups participating in the enhanced standard plans and products?

Groups that are new on or after 10/3/09, as well as existing groups with a renewal date occurring on or after 10/3/09, will have parity with the medical benefits that include:

- Deductibles
- Co-payments
- Co-Insurance
- Out-of-Pocket Expenses
- Out of network benefits, if applicable
- Limits on number of visits or inpatient days per benefit year (as applicable)

What diagnoses are included?

Covered diagnoses are defined in the member’s health benefit plan. BCBSGa has not changed the covered diagnoses; however, you should always verify coverage when obtaining benefits information from BCBSGa.

Pre-certification Requirements for Outpatient Services

BCBSGa requires pre-certification of outpatient services after the initial evaluation visit for all members enrolled in a fully insured and some employer self-funded HMO, Point of Service, Preferred Provider Organization or Indemnity benefit plans. Beginning January 1, 2010, BCBSGa will strictly enforce the pre-certification requirement so that failure to have an authorization on file may result in a denial of claims payment. If services will extend beyond the initial authorization within the calendar year, an Outpatient Treatment Report form** must be submitted requesting an extension of the authorization.

You are encouraged to call during the remaining months of this year for members who will continue treatment in 2010. If the member requires services beyond the initial authorization in the 2010 calendar year, an Outpatient Treatment Report form** will need to be submitted requesting additional services. Failure to have an authorization on file may result in a denial of claims payment.

Verification of benefits and eligibility, as well as authorization for new patients and existing patients can be obtained by calling the number for pre-certification on the member's BCBSGa ID card or 1-800-292-2879.

The following is a list of MHSA CPT Codes that the pre-certification will be enforced as of January 1, 2010

Category	CPT Code*
Individual Psychotherapy	90804, 90806, 90808, 90810, 90812, 90814, 90816, 90818, 90821, 90823, 90826, 90828
Individual Psychotherapy with medical mgmt.	90805, 90807, 90809, 90811, 90813, 90815, 90817, 90819, 90822, 90824, 90827, 90829
Other Psychotherapy and Services	90845, 90846, 90847, 90849, 90853, 90857, 90865, 90870, 90875, 90876, 90880, 96101, 96102, 96103, 96118, 96119, 96120

***Please note that 90801, 90802 and 90862 do not require pre-certification for claims payment.**

****New Outpatient Treatment Report Form for Requesting Continuation of Outpatient Services**

The enclosed Outpatient Treatment Report form must be used for requesting continuation of care services after the initial authorization has been utilized. Electronic copies are also available on the BCBSGa Provider page at the following location www.bcbsga.com > Providers > Forms and Links. You may begin using it now. **It will be the required document for treatment report submissions after January 1, 2010.**

Facility Based Services

Partial Hospitalization (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient (IOP) are included as part of the BCBSGa standard plans and products for all group sizes. PHP and IOP do require pre-certification which can be obtained by calling the number on the member's card or 1-800-292-2879.

If you have any questions, regarding this information, please contact the behavioral health services unit at 1-800-292-2879.

Sincerely,



Andree Miceli, LCSW
Manager II, Behavioral Health Services

Encl: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia Outpatient Treatment Report