

Important Announcement

Date: September 19, 2018
To: Primary Care Providers
Subject: **HPSM Pediatric Policy Update**

What updates are being made?

Effective January 1, 2018, HPSM requests prior authorization for outpatient Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), or Speech Therapy (ST) for members under 21 years old.

For outpatient Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), or Speech Therapy (ST) for members under 21 years old, an initial evaluation can be authorized with a current physician's prescription.

Effective July 1, 2018, HPSM is responsible for administering the benefits for members under 21 years old requiring Behavioral Health Therapy (BHT) and/or Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). HPSM will be covering these services from ages 0-21 years old.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I help my patient to receive outpatient therapy?

When prescribing therapy evaluation, treatment, or both; please send a copy of the prescription directly to the therapy provider's office. Providing a copy to the member is up to you, but the therapy provider will need to submit a current prescription (within the last 6 months) with the HPSM authorization request form to receive authorization for therapy evaluations or services.

What guidelines does HPSM follow when authorizing therapy requests?

HPSM follows Milliman Care Guidelines and Medi-Cal guidelines in determining therapy requests. Twelve follow-up therapy visits are generally approved for routine initial therapy requests. Additional visits may be authorized based on the member's medical condition and progress according to the submitted documentation which must include an updated prescription.

When should I refer to Early Start (GGRC)?

Refer members under age 3 if they meet the eligibility criteria, need home based services, or require a more comprehensive approach to address family needs. Families may want to also begin the process of securing school based services once the child is age 33 months and older, but the member can receive outpatient therapy (PT/OT/ST) services in the interim.

When should I refer to the school district?

Refer when a child has long term therapy needs and is over 33 months old or has developmental needs that will

affect his/her ability to learn or function at school. Children enrolled in Early Start are assisted by their assigned social worker. The family can also contact the school district directly and request an assessment. The school district has 15 days to propose an assessment plan. Any outpatient reports will be helpful to the school district's assessment.

For additional questions, contact Provider Services at **650-616-2106**.

***While referral guidelines are not mandated by HPSM, we offer the following guidelines:**

Clinical Presentation or Service Need	Where to Refer	Contact
Autism Spectrum Disorder or ASD (diagnosed within last 2 years).	Magellan	Fax 888-656-3847
Autism (suspected or diagnosed over 2 years ago).	Magellan	Fax 888-656-3847
A child who is already receiving or who you believe would primarily benefit from Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA).	Magellan	Fax 888-656-3847
Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) – A child 0 -21 who has not been found to benefit from ABA, where there may or may not be a clear or present diagnosis, who displays a pattern of developmentally inappropriate behaviors, or who exhibits developmental deficits that may be corrected or ameliorated.	BHRS	Fax 650-596-8065 or Phone 800-686-0101
Consultation, assessment and referrals to mental health and substance use treatment services for members of all ages.	BHRS	Fax 650-596-8065 or Phone 800-686-0101
Infants and toddlers under 36 months who have a developmental delay or for whom there are established risk conditions or high-risk biomedical factors that could lead to a delay.	GGRC Early Start Program	Fax 888-339-3306 or Phone 888-339-3305 or Email intake@ggrc.org
Individuals over 3 years old with intellectual disability, autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, or disabling conditions found to be closely related to intellectual disability or to require treatment similar to that required for individuals with an intellectual disability.	GGRC Lanterman Act Program	Fax 888-339-3306 or Phone 888-339-3305 or Email intake@ggrc.org
Child over 33 months with long term therapy needs or development needs that will affect ability to learn or function at school.	School District	Information varies. Web www.smcoe.org/
Child under 21 years with neuromuscular issues, showing signs of spasticity, illness/injury that requires extensive rehabilitation, or developmental issues requiring long term PT/OT support.	Medical Therapy Unit (MTU)	Phone 650-616-2500