Credentialed Criteria Change for Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the effective date of the requirement for a documented daily visit with an attending licensed prescribing provider?
A: Daily medical evaluation and management for acute inpatient mental health services is an existing expectation. The recent update to the credentialing criteria for inpatient psychiatric programs was made to better align our credentialing criteria with existing clinical medical necessity criteria for acute inpatient mental health programs. The presence of daily medical evaluation and management will continue to be assessed during clinical medical necessity reviews on an ongoing basis and will be incorporated into your facility’s next re-credentialing cycle.

Q: Why didn’t we get 30 days’ notice?
A: Please see response to question regarding effective date above.

Q: Does daily mean Monday through Friday?
A: Daily means 7 days per week.

Q: How does ValueOptions define an Attending Licensed Prescribing Provider?
A: ValueOptions defines an Attending Licensed Prescribing Provider as a practitioner that is licensed to prescribe medications independently. This would include MDs, DOs, APRNs, and PhDs in states that license Psychologists to prescribe medications. Physician Assistants, under daily supervision by an MD/DO, may also be utilized.

Q: What levels of care/types of program does this requirement apply for?
A: The requirement for a documented daily visit with an attending licensed prescribing provider applies to Acute Inpatient Psychiatric programs, including Dual Diagnosis units licensed as a psychiatric/mental health program to treat patients with a primary psychiatric diagnosis. The requirement does not apply for Residential or Substance Abuse programs.
Q: **What is the clinical rationale for this requirement?**

A. As noted previously, the expectation for daily medical evaluation and management is not new. It is considered to be the standard of practice for patients requiring treatment on an acute inpatient psychiatric/mental health unit.

Q: **Is this expectation regardless of length of stay?**

A. Daily medical evaluation and management is expected throughout the patient’s stay on an acute inpatient psychiatric/mental health unit.

Q: **Are there any exceptions?**

A. Individual exceptions may be considered on a case by case exception as part of the ValueOptions medical necessity review process.

Q: **Does a documented note by a Senior Resident qualify in a teaching facility?**

A. Yes, with the assurance of appropriate supervision of the Senior Resident by the unit’s psychiatric MDs/DOs, this documentation is acceptable. Interns would not qualify.