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| Subject:  **Utilization Management** | Procedure:  **Authorizations for Respite Care Services** | |
| Last Updated:  **9/12/2024** | Owner:  **Managed Care Operations** | Pages:  **3** |

1. **PURPOSE**

To provide procedural and operational guidance to directly operated and contract providers on the documentation requirements for authorizations of respite care services.

# **DEFINITIONS**

1. Respite Care Services:

Medicaid funded support services provided on a short-term, intermittent basis to relieve the family or other primary unpaid caregiver(s) from the daily stress and care demands during times when they are providing unpaid care. Respite is not intended to be provided on a continuous, long-term basis where it is part of the daily services that would enable an unpaid caregiver to work.

1. Medical Necessity:

Determination that a specific service is medically (clinically) appropriate; necessary to meet needs; consistent with the person’s diagnosis, symptomatology, and functional impairments; is the most cost-effective option in the least restrictive environment; and is consistent with clinical standards of care. The medical necessity of a service shall be documented in the individual plan of service (IPOS).

1. **PROCEDURE**
   1. Respite Care Services are intended to assist in maintaining a goal of living in a natural community home and are provided on a short-term, intermittent basis to relieve the person’s family or other primary unpaid caregiver(s) from the daily stress and care demands during times when they are providing unpaid care.
      1. The person served must have active Medicaid entitlements.
      2. The person served must meet eligibility standards for MCCMH services as a person with a Serious Emotional Disturbance, a Severe Mental Illness, or a person with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability.
      3. Short-term means the respite service is provided during a limited period such as a few hours, a few days, weekends, or for vacations.
      4. Intermittent means the respite service does not occur regularly or continuously. The service stops and starts repeatedly or with periods in between.
      5. Unpaid means the respite service may only be provided during portions of the day when no one is being paid to provide care, i.e., not a time when the person is receiving Adult Home Help, CLS, a service through another program (e.g. school), or another support service. The person served must have periods of unpaid care to be eligible for respite care services.
      6. Respite is not to be provided as a part of daily services to enable the unpaid caregiver to work elsewhere.
   2. When a person served notifies their primary case holder of an interest in Respite Care Services the provider shall:
      1. Identify if this is a treatment need for the person served, per the Michigan Medicaid Provider Manual, specific to the service and medical necessity.
      2. The primary case holder discusses this service need as a part of the person-centered planning process.
      3. The primary case holder ensures that this service is an identified service in the individual’s person-centered treatment plan. The goal(s) must address the medical necessity of the service, identify the provider, and the amount, scope, and duration of the service.
         1. For someone on the Habilitation Supports Waiver (HSW) the plan must document that, if not for this HSW service, the person served would require institutionalization in an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID).
   3. The case manager assists the person in identifying a provider for this service.
      1. A list of all Respite Care providers can be found in the MCCMH Provider Directory.
      2. Persons served can hire family members or other natural supports to provide Respite Care Services through the Self-Determination process.
         1. Respite Care Services may not be provided by the parent of a minor, spouse of the person served, legal guardian of the person served, or the unpaid primary caregiver.
   4. The primary clinical provider submits the prior authorization request to Managed Care Operations (MCO) in the FOCUS Electronic Medical Record (EMR). Authorization requests can be submitted up to sixty (60) calendar days, and no less than fourteen (14) calendar days, prior to the effective date of the authorization.
   5. MCO has fourteen (14) calendar days to make a medical necessity determination on these requests.
      1. When it is determined that the individual meets the medical necessity criteria for the authorization of Respite Care Services, the authorization is approved in the Focus EMR, and an electronic notification is sent to the primary clinical provider.
      2. When it is determined that the individual does not meet the medical necessity criteria for all or part of the authorization of Respite Care Services, the authorization is denied in the Focus EMR, and an electronic notification is sent to the primary clinical provider. MCO sends a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination to the person served and/or their legal guardian.

# **REFERENCES**

None

1. **RELATED POLICIES**
   1. MCCMH MCO Policy 12-004, “Service Authorizations”
2. **EXHIBITS**

None

**Annual Review Attestation / Revision History:**

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| Revision #: | Revision/Review Date: | Revision Summary: | Reviewer/Reviser: |
| 1 | 9/12/2024 | Creation of Procedure | MCCMH MCO Division |
| 2 | 12/3/2024 | Implementation of Procedure | MCCMH MCO Division |