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DBHR Guidance Document #18-04

Drug Screens/Urinalysis Testing for Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs)

***Please note: This Guidance Document replaces “#18-03 Drug Screens/Urinalysis Testing for Behavioral Health Organizations Guidance Document” and “16-02 Drug Screen-UA Guidance Document”**

This document clarifies the sources of BHO funding for allowable substance use disorder (SUD) drug screens and urinalysis (UA) *and provides guidance regarding limitations by funding type, contractual relationship, and the role of HCA.*

BHO Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan Managed Care (PIHP) Contracts (Medicaid)

Medically necessary drug screens/UAs for individuals receiving Opiate Treatment Programs (OTP) and pregnant women are reflected in the Medicaid managed care rate. These activities are called out explicitly in the state plan as a treatment and monitoring tool.

Additionally, drug screens/UAs may be conducted when ordered by a physician as part of a medical evaluation or to determine the suitability for medical tests or medical treatment. This type of drug screen/UA is available for all Medicaid enrollees receiving substance use disorder treatment services and is not to be used for monitoring purposes.

BHOs do not report drug screens/UAs as treatment encounters. They are considered treatment related activities which are incorporated in the overall cost of treatment.

BHO contracts with their SUD treatment providers should reflect how drug screens/UAs are purchased within the BHO. If the SUD treatment provider is unclear about how to obtain drug screens/UAs for their clients, they should contact their BHO for guidance.

BHO Substance Abuse Block Grant Contracts (Non-Medicaid)

The BHOs' Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) contracts cover Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services, recovery support services, and may be used for medically necessary drug screens/UAs within the context of a treatment plan. BHOs use these non-Medicaid funds to purchase services for non-Medicaid individuals and to purchase non-Medicaid covered services for Medicaid enrollees.

BHO contracts with their SUD treatment providers should reflect how drug screens/UAs are purchased within the BHO. If the SUD treatment provider is unclear about how to obtain drug screens/UAs for their clients, they should contact their BHO for guidance.

BHO Behavioral Health State Contracts (Non-Medicaid)

Drug screens/UAs may be provided under the BHOs' Behavioral Health State Contracts (BHSC) as part of monitoring activities to support recovery.

BHO Criminal Justice Treatment Account funding included in the BHSC (Non-Medicaid)

The BHOs may utilize the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) funding to purchase drug screens/UAs as part of monitoring activities to support recovery.

BHO contracts with their SUD treatment providers should reflect how drug screens/UAs are purchased within the BHO. If the SUD treatment provider is unclear about how to obtain drug screens/UAs for their clients, they should contact their BHO for guidance.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Health Care Authority (HCA) medical benefit does not pay for SUD treatment drug screens/UAs when those screens are a component of BHO funded SUD treatment services. When drug screens/UAs are conducted within the context of BHO funded SUD treatment or monitoring, they should **not** be billed to ProviderOne or the Health Care Authority.

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Drug Screens/UAs

Are BHOs required to pay for UAs for non-Medicaid populations?

No. BHOs may utilize SABG, BHSC, or CJTA funding to purchase UAs for non-Medicaid populations but this is not required. The BHOs have the authority to determine how to prioritize use of these funds.

Are there any limits on the number of drug screens/UAs the BHOs should be paying for?

No. There is no limit on the number of drug screens/UAs other than the limits in the PIHP/Medicaid contract, as described above or in contract language with the BHO.

Are there any limitations on the type of drug screens/UAs BHOs can pay for?

Yes, for Medicaid reimbursed drug screens/UAs. Please see the Medicaid limitations on page 1 of this document.

No, for non-Medicaid reimbursed drug screens/UAs there is no limitation, unless otherwise described in the agency's contract with the BHO.

Which drug screen/UA entity will BHOs contract with for these services?

BHOs have the authority to determine what entity to contract with for these services, or they may defer to their SUD treatment providers to make that decision.