



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
3 West Road | Virks Building | Cranston, RI 02920

Date: January 6, 2022

To: Nancy Hermiz, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
Julienne Stenberg, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
Marc Cooper, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
Michael Florczyk, United HealthCare Community Plan
Matthew Padelli, United HealthCare Community Plan
Domenic Delmonico, Tufts Health Public Plans
Alice Msumba, Tufts Health Public Plans

From: Mark Kraics, Acting Deputy Medicaid Program Director, EOHHS

Cc: Womazetta Jones, Secretary, EOHHS
Kristin Sousa, Acting Medicaid Program Director, EOHHS
Sarah Harrigan, Associate Director, Program Alignment, EOHHS
James Rajotte, Chief Strategy Officer, EOHHS

Re: Prior Authorizations Suspension for Hospital to Nursing

Dear Rhode Island Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs):

Effective December 31, 2021 – January 14, 2022, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) are suspending prior authorization requirements for clients transitioning from a hospital to a nursing facility. This temporary policy suspension for prior authorizations is intended to streamline hospital discharges to improve hospital capacity during the current phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior authorizations suspensions are short term and will be reevaluated by EOHHS prior to January 14th for potential extension. PASSR requirement shall remain in effect.

There is no change to the prior authorization requirements for behavioral health facilities.

Yours in Health,

Mark D Kraics, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Humans Services, Acting Deputy Medicaid Program Director, Managed Care & Oversight