



**Connecticut Medical Assistance Program**  
Policy Transmittal 2015-10

Provider Bulletin 2015-22  
March 2015

Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner

Effective Date: April 1, 2015  
Contact: Colleen Ryan @ 860-424-5195

TO: General Acute Care Hospitals & Children's Hospitals  
RE: Inpatient Hospital Modernization-Per Diem Payments for Rehabilitation and Behavioral Health

The purpose of this policy transmittal is to provide guidance concerning the prior authorization (PA) process for inpatient services that currently receive a per diem payment, and are carved out of the All Patient Refined-Diagnosis Related Group (APR DRG) payment methodology. Effective for admissions on or after April 1, 2015, inpatient services will no longer be reimbursed a per diem rate based exclusively on the DRG assignment. Services that are currently eligible for a per diem payment are identified by DRG assignments 740-776 (behavioral health) and 860 (rehabilitation).

Effective for admissions April 1, 2015 and forward, a second per diem PA will, in addition to the authorization received at the time of the admission, be required to be eligible for the per diem rate. Rehabilitation or behavioral health claims, currently paid at the per diem rate, will need PA reflecting a per diem on file. If the hospital does not obtain a per diem PA at the time of service, the claim will pay entirely based on the DRG assignment.

If on emergent admission into the hospital, the primary reason for the client is medical in nature and an inpatient stay is medically necessary, the hospital should request PA from Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHNCT). If the primary reason for admitting the client relates to behavioral health, PA should be received from the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP).

If a client, who received a medical authorization upon admission from CHNCT, requires further inpatient behavioral health or rehabilitation care, the hospital must administratively discharge the client from medical and re-admit the client for behavioral health or rehabilitation services to qualify for the per diem rate. A per diem PA for behavioral health services must be requested from CT BHP and acute rehabilitation per diem services must be requested from CHNCT. If the hospital fails to obtain the per diem PA or if the per

diem PA is not sought and received from the correct administrative service organization (ASO), the Department will reimburse the hospital based on the DRG assignment.

If a client, who received a behavioral health authorization upon admission from CT BHP, requires further inpatient medical or rehabilitation care, the hospital must administratively discharge the client from behavioral health and re-admit the client for medical services or rehabilitation services to qualify for further payment. When a client is admitted to the hospital for a behavioral health condition, but on further evaluation requires admission for medical services, the hospital must administratively discharge the client from behavioral health and readmit him or her for medical services. The hospital must obtain a medical PA from CHNCT for that readmission. The medical claim will be reimbursed via DRG payment methodology. If the hospital does not obtain a medical PA from CHNCT in the time frame specified by the department, the medical claim will be denied. The readmission is subject to the time frame requirements established in section 17b-262-907 of the Regulation of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA). All requests for admission to the Intensive Care Unit must go through CHNCT including PA for Alcohol Withdrawal Delirium.

To receive PA or obtain additional information regarding the authorization process for medical or rehabilitation admissions, please contact CHNCT at 1-800-440-5071 or visit [www.huskyhealth.com](http://www.huskyhealth.com).

To receive PA or obtain further information regarding behavioral health admissions, please contact CT BHP (Value Options) at 1-877-552-8247 or visit the CTBHP Web site at [www.ctbhp.com](http://www.ctbhp.com).

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**Responsible Unit:** DSS, Division of Health Services, Medical Policy and Regulations, Colleen Ryan, at (860) 424-5195.

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