

NOTICE: Prior authorization, and Continued Stay Form for Behavioral Health Inpatient Facility (BHIF), Behavioral Health Residential Facility (BHRF), and Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC)

April 30, 2024

Dear Providers,

BCBSAZ Health Choice has enhanced and revised the “*BHIF, BHRF, TFC, and Behavioral Health Prior Authorization and Continued Stay Form.*” The enhanced form is available now on our websites for use with the BCBSAZ Health Choice and ACA StandardHealth with Health Choice plans.

What has changed? All Prior Authorization (PA) and continued stay requests require the identification of the attending or licensed treating practitioner.

Why? To identify the licensed treating practitioner for communication of approval and denials.

Who? NCOA defines treating practitioner as “A licensed or certified professional who provides medical care or behavioral healthcare services;” “the practitioner who requested the care, service or procedure subject to medical necessity review.” If a practitioner refers a member for a treatment, for preservice requests, either the referring practitioner or the practitioner who will ultimately provide the treatment, service or procedure may be considered the treating practitioner.

Other Requirements:

- All request forms must be typed.
- All required fields must be completed.
- All requests require the identification of the attending or licensed treating practitioner.
- Expedited or Standard must be checked. All BHRF requests are considered expedited. *Expedited means a request for which a provider indicates, or a Contractor determines using the standard time frame for issuing an authorization decision that could seriously jeopardize the member’s life or health or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function.*
- Member or guardian must agree with request.
- Complete in PDF fillable version.

For questions contact:

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