



TO: Hospitals and Psychiatric Hospitals
RE: Prior Authorization for Alcohol Withdrawal Delirium

The purpose of this transmittal is to notify hospitals that, effective March 1, 2014, they should seek prior authorization for all admissions for alcohol withdrawal delirium (ICD-diagnosis code 291.0) through the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP) regardless of the unit to which the admission occurs. Historically, admissions to a medical unit with this diagnosis have been considered medical admissions and were authorized by the medical administrative services organization Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHNCT). All inpatient stays with the admitting diagnosis of alcohol withdrawal delirium will be considered behavioral health admissions.

It is the hospital's responsibility to obtain authorization from the CT BHP prior to the provision of services. To contact CT BHP for authorization, hospitals must call 1-877-552-8247.

Regardless of whether they are treated in a medical unit or a behavioral health unit, individuals who have been admitted to hospitals for alcohol withdrawal or detoxification will often benefit from behavioral health intensive care management (ICM) services as a part of their discharge plan. These services can assist in linking the individual to appropriate follow-up care. To facilitate effective discharges, the CT BHP encourages hospitals to work closely with the CT BHP ICMs. The intensive care managers can be reached at the number listed above (1-877-552-8247).

