



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

The purpose of this provider bulletin is to clarify the intent of PB 2014-10 which notified hospitals that, effective March 1, 2014, they should seek prior authorization (PA) for all admissions for which the admitting diagnosis is 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.

For these purposes, the admitting diagnosis is defined as that diagnosis which, at the time of admission, is the primary focus of treatment that necessitates the admission.

The sole exception to this is that if the admission is to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), the PA request must go to Community Health Network of Connecticut (CHN-CT).

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

Regardless of whether they are treated on 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 CT BHP intensive care managers can be reached at 1-877-552-8247.

