

Memorandum

To: Behavior Rehabilitation Service (BRS) providers
Individuals who request initial or continuing authorization of BRS

From: Rusha Grinstead, Children and Families Policy manager

Date: March 18, 2025

Subject: Change to BRS approval periods effective April, 1 2025

Effective April 1, 2025, all BRS Medicaid approvals will be for 180 days unless the child turns 21, in which case approval will end the day before their birthday.

During this approval period, individuals requesting authorization must submit a new standard authorization request when the child:

- Has not entered a BRS program within 90 days of the initial approval date.
- Has a change of condition that could affect their eligibility for BRS.

BRS providers must also arrange for discharge before the approval period ends when the child:

- Has met the goals outlined in their service plan and is ready for a planned discharge because they no longer require BRS, or
- Meets the conditions for other discharge types described in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 410-170-0060.

Why is this happening?

BRS shelter care and assessment and evaluation settings have a 90-day approval period. All other BRS settings have a 180-day approval period. Oregon Health Authority reviewed seven months of BRS authorization data and found the 90-day approval period unnecessary.

What should you do?

BRS providers:

Please keep a copy of the BRS approval notice in the BRS client's file as proof of compliance with OAR [410-170-0040](#)(8).

Discharge BRS clients when BRS is no longer medically necessary or medically appropriate as described above.

Requesters:

Submit a standard authorization request when:

- The youth has a change that would affect their eligibility for BRS as found in OAR [410-151-0001](#)(3)(4) and OAR [410-170-0040](#)(3).
- The youth has not been began receiving BRS services within the first 90 days from current approved start date.

Please comment in the notes section of the request form which reason applies.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this process described in this announcement, call 503-979-8354 or email BHMC@oha.oregon.gov.

If you have questions about the Medicaid policy or OARs described in this announcement, call 503-545-0885 or email Medicaid.Programs@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

You may also visit OHA's BRS [web page](#) for additional resources including program updates, past memos, frequently asked questions and training recordings.