

Date: November 1, 2024

To: Individuals who request Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS) authorizations

From: Donald Jardine, Medicaid Behavioral Health Policy manager

Subject: Urgent BRS prior authorization requests to end Nov. 11, 2024

Starting Nov. 11, 2024, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will no longer accept urgent or expedited BRS prior authorization requests.

Urgent requests are for emergency services necessary to sustain the youth's life or health. According to Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) [410-170-0040\(3\)](#), BRS is not medically appropriate if a youth's life or health is at risk due to active suicidal, homicidal or seriously aggressive behaviors, active psychosis or psychiatric instability.

OAR [410-120-0000\(108\)](#), (110) and (254) define emergency medical conditions and emergency services.

What should you do?

Youth experiencing a medical or psychiatric emergency should be referred to appropriate emergency services rather than BRS placement.

Starting Nov. 11, 2024, requesters must:

- Stop submitting urgent requests,
- Use the retroactive authorization process for youth who need immediate placement, and
- Use the updated authorization form found on OHA's BRS [web page](#).

Questions?

If you have any questions, please call 503-979-8354 or email BHMC@oha.oregon.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and the services you provide to our members.