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Date: February 14, 2024

To: Oregon State Hospital
Acute Care Psychiatric Settings

From: Donny Jardine, Medicaid Behavioral Health Policy manager
Medicaid Programs

Subject: Prior authorization required for Secure Residential Treatment Facility placement starting March 1, 2024

Starting March 1, 2024, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will require a referring provider to submit a prior authorization request using the new [CH-009](#) form for all referrals to a Secure Residential Treatment Facility (SRTF), regardless of the referred individual's legal status.

- The Independent Qualified Agent (Comagine Health) will conduct a documentation review for all requests to verify that SRTF placement is medically necessary and appropriate in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) [410-172-0720](#).
- If the Independent Qualified Agent finds that SRTF placement is not medically necessary or appropriate, they will return the CH-009 form with the decision.
- The referring provider will have 10 days from the decision date to submit further documentation of medical necessity and medical appropriateness to the Independent Qualified Agent.
- If the Independent Qualified Agent finds that the individual still does not meet medical necessity/appropriateness criteria, they will staff with OHA before OHA issues a denial.

Why is this happening?

This change will ensure that the individual meets medical necessity and medical appropriateness for Medicaid payment prior to admission to a program as required by [OAR 410.172.0720](#).

What should you do?

To request prior authorization for SRTF placement on or after March 1, 2024, submit the new CH-009 form. Include sufficient documentation for the Independent Qualified Agent (Comagine Health) to make an appropriate medical necessity/appropriateness decision. Suggested documentation can be found in the CH-009 form on the [Comagine Health website](#).

Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, contact David Sant at david.sant@oha.oregon.gov or 503-508-5248.

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