Oregon Health Authority

2020 Mental Health Parity Analysis Report

for

Advanced Health

February 2021

HSAG HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY GROUP

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1. Introduction

Overview of Oregon's Mental Health Parity Analysis

Mental Health Parity (MHP) regulations are intended to ensure that coverage and access to services for the treatment of mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) conditions are provided in parity with treatments provided for medical and surgical (M/S) needs. The required analysis of MH benefits is governed by federal regulations. The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) governs how MH/SUD treatments delivered by managed care organizations and limitations on MH/SUD benefits are comparable to and applied no more stringently than the limitations applied to M/S benefits. Provisions of the MHPAEA became applicable to the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) in October 2017 when the Medicaid Parity Final Rule (42 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] §438 Subpart K) went into effect. The rule requires parity in key areas:

- Aggregate lifetime and annual dollar limits (AL/ADLs).
- Financial requirements (FRs—such as copays).
- Quantitative treatment limitations (QTLs—such as day and visit limits).
- Non-quantitative treatment limitations (NQTLs—such as prior authorization [PA] and provider network admission requirements).

Additional MHP regulations require that criteria for medical necessity determinations for MH/SUD benefits must be made available to beneficiaries and providers upon request, as well as the reason for denial of reimbursement or payment for MH/SUD benefits. States must also implement monitoring procedures to ensure continued compliance and to identify when changes in benefit design or operations could affect compliance and require an updated analysis.

To meet the requirements, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) conducted an initial MHP Analysis of OHP's full delivery system in 2018. OHA's 15 coordinated care organizations (CCOs) and Oregon Health Plan Fee-for-Service (OHP FFS) participated in the initial MHP Analysis, which included an inventory of all MH/SUD and M/S benefits offered to OHP members and the limitations applied to those benefits to ensure that limitations (e.g., day limits, PA requirements, or network admission standards) for MH and SUD services were comparable to and applied no more stringently than those for M/S services provided under OHP. Results of the initial analysis were reported in August 2018; and in 2019, the CCOs implemented corrective actions in areas lacking parity.

For 2020, OHA tasked Health Services Advisory Group, Inc. (HSAG), with conducting a follow-up MHP Analysis across the CCOs, in part due to each of the CCOs entering into new five-year contracts with the State, to determine if the existing benefits and any NQTLs remained compliant with the MHP regulations in 42 CFR §438 Subpart K. HSAG conducted the MHP Analysis in 2020 based on the August 2018 results, any implemented corrective actions, and any additional changes to benefits design or operations that may impact parity. This report provides information on and results of the 2020 MHP Analysis for Advanced Health (AH).

Components of the 2020 MHP Analysis

In accordance with 42 CFR §438 Subpart K, MHP applied to all OHP benefits delivered through OHA's managed care delivery system, including those delivered through a combination of managed care and FFS delivery systems. HSAG developed a protocol and tools to carry out the analysis activity based on the initial 2018 MHP Analysis and in alignment with guidance outlined in the toolkit provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): *Parity Compliance Toolkit Applying Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Requirements to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs*.[1-1] The 2020 MHP Analysis also referenced Oregon's Mapping Guide[1-2] that assigned benefits to MH/SUD and M/S groupings based on International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) diagnoses and mapped into four prescribed classifications as published in the March 30, 2016, Federal Register, Vol. 81, No. 61[1-3] as illustrated in Figure 1-1.

Figure 1-1—MHP: Four Prescribed Classifications

OHP Benefit Packages

While all OHP benefit packages were delivered in accordance with the same Medicaid essential health benefits structure, the delivery of those benefits was categorized by OHP benefit package based on enrollment. Table 1-1 identifies the four OHP benefit packages evaluated in the 2020 MHP Analysis. Since each benefit package involves the delivery of Medicaid essential health benefits covered by both CCOs and OHP FFS, HSAG conducted an analysis of each CCO's NQTLs, and then against the OHP FFS NQTLs.

Table 1-1—OHP Benefit Packages

Benefit Package	Benefit Types Covered	Evaluation
CCOA	Physical Health, Behavioral Health, Dental Health	CCO MH/SUD and FFS MH/SUD compared to CCO M/S
CCOB	Physical Health, Behavioral Health	
CCOE	Behavioral Health	CCO MH/SUD and FFS MH/SUD compared to FFS M/S
CCOG	Behavioral Health, Dental Health	

[1-1] The CMS *Parity Compliance Toolkit Applying Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Requirements to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs* and additional CMS resources related to MHP can be accessed at: https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/behavioral-health-services/parity/index.html.

[1-2] The Oregon Mapping Guide includes definitions, links, and resources important for the MHP Analysis. It also maps all Oregon Medicaid benefits to the classifications required for the MHP Analysis. It can be accessed on OHA's MHP webpage at: https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/HSD/OHP/Pages/MH-Parity.aspx.

[1-3] Federal Register. Volume 81, No. 61/Wednesday, March 30, 2016. Available at: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2016-03-30/pdf/FR-2016-03-30.pdf. Accessed on: Dec 4, 2020.

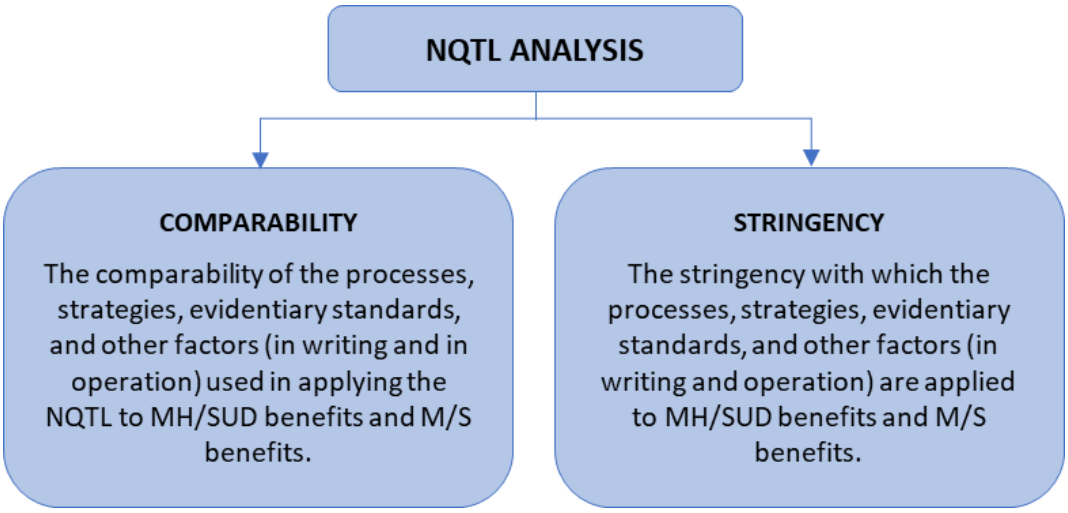
Non-Quantitative Treatment Limitations

Because Oregon Medicaid does not permit the use of QTLs (e.g., day and visit limits), HSAG's analysis focused on assessing NQTLs in the OHP delivery system. NQTLs are health care management limitations on the scope or duration of benefits through the use of managed care processes, such as PA or network admission standards. "Soft limits," benefit limits that allow for an individual to exceed limits or allow for limits to be "waived" based on medical necessity, are also considered NQTLs. Examples of NQTLs include:

- Medical management standards limiting or excluding benefits based on medical necessity or appropriateness criteria.
- Standards for provider admission to participate in a network and reimbursement rates.
- Restrictions based on geographic location, facility type, or provider specialty.
- Fail-first policies or step therapy protocols.
- Exclusions based on failure to complete a course of treatment prior to allowing authorization of a subsequent treatment.

MHP regulations hold that no NQTL can be applied to MH/SUD benefits and services that is not comparable to or is more stringent than those applied to M/S benefits and services in each benefit classification regarding processes, strategies, evidentiary standards, or other factors. HSAG assessed policies and procedures as written and operational processes for compliance with parity requirements by classification (e.g., inpatient [IP] and outpatient [OP]) of services. The 2018 MHP Analysis compared NQTLs for services that address MH/SUD diagnoses with services that address M/S diagnoses across the OHP benefit packages. Comparability was assessed as to the reason an NQTL was used, the evidence that supported its use, and the process for its implementation. The stringency criterion assessed the rigor with which the NQTLs were applied, the evidence for the level of stringency, and penalties and exceptions associated with limitations. Comparability and stringency are defined in Figure 1-2.

Figure 1-2—MHP Analysis Comparability and Stringency



NQTL Categories

Similar to the Initial 2018 MHP Analysis, HSAG assessed for comparability and stringency criteria across six specific NQTL categories in the OHP delivery system. The six categories are described below.

- **Category I—Utilization Management Limits Applied to Inpatient Services:** Utilization management (UM) processes implemented through PA, concurrent review (CR), and retrospective review (RR) that may also be used to ensure medical necessity for MH/SUD and M/S services.
- **Category II—Utilization Management Limits Applied to Outpatient Services:** UM processes applied to OP MH/SUD and M/S services through PA, CR, and RR to ensure medical necessity.
- **Category III—Prior Authorization for Prescription Drug Limits:** PA as a means of determining whether particular medications will be dispensed. PA of prescription drugs limits the availability of specific medications.
- **Category IV—Provider Admission—Closed Network:** Closed networks as they impose limits to providers seeking to join a panel of approved providers.
- **Category V—Provider Admission—Network Credentialing:** Network enrollment/credentialing requirements imposed, including provider admission requirements such as state licensing requirements and exclusions of specific provider types, that may result in limitations.
- **Category VI—Out-of-Network/Out-of-State Limits:** Out-of-network (OON) and out-of-state (OOS) limits that affect how members access OON and OOS providers and address how OHA and the CCOs ensure necessary access to providers not eligible to be reimbursed or not in a CCO's network.

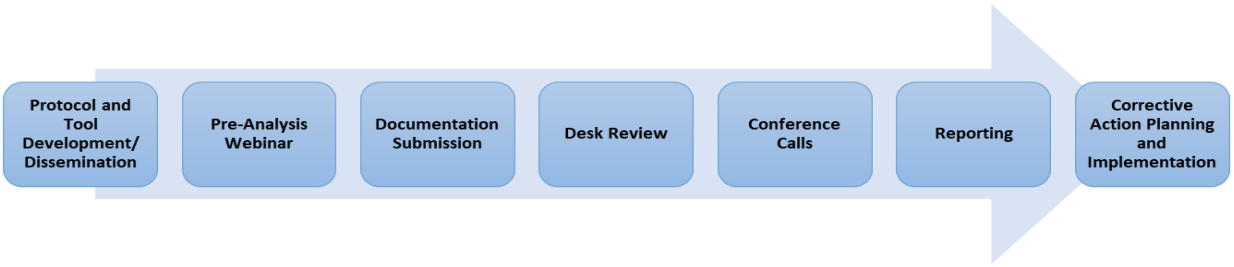
2. Process and Methodology

Building from the initial 2018 MHP Analysis, HSAG worked with OHA and the CCOs to conduct a follow-up MHP Analysis that evaluated changes to benefits design and operations that may impact parity. The 2020 MHP Analysis identified and addressed differences between the policies and standards governing limitations applied to MH/SUD services as compared to M/S services. Differences in how limits were applied to MH/SUD services as compared to M/S services were evaluated for continued compliance with MHP regulations to ensure evidence-based, quality MH/SUD care.

Analysis Activities for 2020

The 2020 MHP Analysis activities are illustrated in Figure 2-1 and described below.

Figure 2-1—2020 MHP Analysis Activities



1. **Protocol and Tool Development and Dissemination:** HSAG developed and disseminated an MHP Analysis Protocol that presented details and guidance to OHA and CCOs on the analysis process and included tools in which to conduct the 2020 MHP Analysis Activity. The tools utilized for the analysis, identified below, were based on OHA's initial analysis of MHP and were developed using guidance outlined in the CMS *Parity Compliance Toolkit Applying Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Requirements to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs*.
   - **MHP Evaluation Questionnaire**—Questions referencing the six NQTL categories, to identify changes that may impact parity.
   - **MHP Reporting Template**—Documentation of changes and additions to NQTLs previously reported in 2018, organized by the six NQTL categories.
   - **MHP Required Documentation Template**—UM and credentialing data across MH/SUD and M/S benefits and providers.
2. **Pre-Analysis Webinar:** HSAG conducted a pre-analysis webinar on July 15, 2020, with OHA and the CCOs to provide an overview of MHP regulations, details of the protocol and tools, specifics of the analysis timeline, and examples of MHP scenarios for reference.
3. **Documentation Submission:** OHA and the CCOs were required to submit documentation that included responses to the MHP Evaluation Questionnaire and completed templates, along with supporting documentation, by August 31, 2020.

4. **Desk Review:** HSAG conducted a desk review of all submitted MHP Evaluation Questionnaires, the MHP Reporting Template, and required and supporting documentation (e.g., policies and procedures, benefit schedules, and delegate agreements) to analyze policies and operational practices that impact MHP and determine preliminary analysis findings.
5. **Conference Calls:** HSAG conducted conference calls to discuss preliminary analysis findings and areas in need of clarification. Additional information and documentation were requested at that time, as necessary to support the MHP Analysis.
6. **Reporting:** HSAG compiled analysis results and documented MHP determinations for each CCO and as compared to OHP FFS, identifying areas in which MHP had not been achieved and corrective actions were required to ensure future parity. OHA and each CCO had an opportunity to review report drafts prior to finalizing the reports.
7. **Corrective Action Planning and Implementation:** HSAG will work with OHA and the CCOs to develop and implement corrective action plans to achieve compliance with MHP requirements.

MHP Analysis Methodology

HSAG reviewers conducted a desk review of submitted MHP Analysis tools and supporting documentation to further clarify reported changes and additions to previously reported NQTLs from the initial MHP Analysis conducted in 2018. More specifically, HSAG evaluated responses to the MHP Evaluation Questionnaire to identify changes to benefits design and operations within OHA and each CCO that may impact MHP, cross-referenced questionnaire responses with changes and additions reported in the MHP Reporting Template, and reviewed supporting documentation submitted by OHA and the CCOs. Supporting documentation included, but was not limited to, UM policies, workflow diagrams, program descriptions, prescription drug formularies, and network admission/credentialing policies. HSAG conducted the 2020 MHP Analysis based on this information to determine compliance with parity guidelines, including ensuring that policies followed standard industry practice, allowed for little to no exception or variation, incorporated established State definitions and guidelines, included staff members qualified to make the decisions and complete the tasks assigned and appropriate oversight.

Information obtained via scheduled conference calls was also evaluated in relation to changes and additions reported. Differences in how limits were applied to MH/SUD services as compared to M/S services, in relation to comparability and stringency standards displayed in Table 2-1, were evaluated across the six NQTL categories for continued compliance with MHP regulations. Each CCO's NQTLs were additionally evaluated against OHP FFS MH/SUD and M/S NQTLs based on the structure of OHP benefit packages referenced in Section 1 of this report.

Table 2-1—Comparability and Stringency Standards

Comparability and Stringency Standard	Question Description
Benefits in Which NQTLs Apply	**1. To which benefits is an NQTL assigned?** *Purpose: To describe the NQTL assigned to MH/SUD and M/S benefits (e.g., PA, scope of services, and time frames).*
Comparability of Strategy	**2. Why is the NQTL assigned to these benefits?** *Purpose: To describe for what reasons or purpose the NQTL is assigned (e.g., ensure medical necessity, prevent overutilization, and comply with State and federal requirements).*
Comparability of Evidentiary Standard	**3. What evidence supports the rationale for the assignment?** *Purpose: To describe the evidence to support the rationale (e.g., benchmarks, standards that form the basis of the rationale, and State and federal requirements).*
Comparability of Processes	**4. What are the NQTL procedures?** *Purpose: To describe the NQTL process and evidence needed to support NQTL determinations (e.g., documentation requirements, timelines, and steps for the CCO and members/providers).*
Stringency of Strategy	**5. How frequently or strictly is the NQTL applied?** *Purpose: To describe the frequency of application, frequency of medical necessity and appropriateness reviews, level of discretion in how the NQTL is applied, triggers for review and re-review, etc.*
Stringency of Evidentiary Standard	**6. What standard supports the frequency or rigor with which the NQTL is applied?** *Purpose: To describe standards that the CCO uses to determine the frequency or rigor of NQTL procedures.*

Analysis Results for 2020

Results of the analysis are incorporated in Section 3 of this report. The results identify overall compliance with MHP regulations across the six NQTL categories in relation to comparability and stringency. Limitations or other operational processes found to impact parity are reported as findings. Required actions are also presented to support future compliance with MHP requirements as applicable.

3. MHP Analysis Results

HSAG derived 2020 MHP Analysis results from the evaluation and observation of information obtained from AH. More specifically, the information and observations used for the evaluation included the following tools, documentation, and conversations:

- Responses to the 2020 MHP Evaluation Questionnaire.
- Reported data in the 2020 MHP Reporting Templates pertaining to NQTL categories.
- Information obtained from AH's submitted 2020 MHP data using the Required Documentation Template and supporting documentation as provided.
- Observations from conversations during the conference call conducted with the CCO.

Results of the MHP Analysis are detailed below. Limitations or other operational processes found to impact parity are reported as findings, along with corresponding required actions. Appendices A and B include AH's completed MHP questionnaire and finalized MHP reporting details by each NQTL category, respectively.

Overall Assessment

AH was responsible for delivering MH/SUD and M/S Medicaid benefits to members in all four benefit packages (CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG), whereas OHP FFS was fully managing M/S benefits for CCOE and CCOG benefit packages. AH was providing MH/SUD benefits prescribed by OHA and had delegation agreements with community mental health programs (CMHPs) and other organizations (e.g., Northwest Rehab Alliance and PrimeCare) for the management of some of these benefits, including PA. The CCO did not delegate PA for SUD benefits. HSAG evaluated AH's application of NQTLs to MH/SUD and M/S benefits in terms of comparability and stringency across the six NQTL categories.

Based on the strategy and evidence provided by AH, including reported changes in operations and practices, PA and credentialing data, and discussions during prescheduled conference calls, HSAG analyzed the parity of MH/SUD benefits as compared to M/S benefits. Most of AH's policies included standardized processes that applied to both MH/SUD and M/S benefits, including UM and service determination policies, a service authorization handbook, and an evidence-based reviewer guide. The CCO did not have separate policies for the management of benefits based on benefit package (i.e., CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG).

For limits applied to IP and OP health benefits, AH and its delegates used UM processes to manage MH/SUD and M/S benefits. The purpose of the CCO's UM processes was to ensure coverage, medical necessity, appropriate treatment in the least restrictive environment that maintains the safety of the individual, compliance with federal and State requirements, and the prevention of unnecessary overutilization. AH reported that the evidence used to apply UM to MH/SUD and M/S included Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs), Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) Prioritized List (PL) and

guidelines, and Milliman Care Guidelines (MCG). The application of authorization limits and the frequency and rigor in which they were applied to authorization requests was comparable across both MH/SUD and M/S benefits and to OHP FFS's application across both benefit types. However, for CCOE and CCOG benefit packages managed by both AH and OHP FFS, HSAG found that the CCO's RR and interrater reliability (IRR) processes were less stringent than for M/S processes across CCOE and CCG benefit packages. Both the CCO and OHA allowed RR for MH/SUD and M/S when providers failed to obtain authorization. Although exceptions to RR time frames were allowed by both the CCO and OHA, AH's 30-day RR time frame allowance for IP MH/SUD PAs was more stringent than OHP FFS's RR time frame of 90 days for M/S RR under benefit packages CCOE and CCOG. Regarding IRR, the CCO was conducting quarterly reviews of monthly authorization reports using an EZ-CAP tool but had no testing standard, whereas OHP FFS had a formal IRR policy inclusive of an 80 percent standard for authorization reviews conducted at least annually.

HSAG's analysis of AH processes and operations did not reveal any MHP concerns for the authorization of prescription drugs across the benefit packages. The application of PA for MH/SUD prescription drugs was comparable to PA for M/S prescription drugs. Of the prescription drug authorization requests AH reported, 1,280 denials resulted in an appeal, with only two denials resulting in an overturned decision. Prescription drug authorization requirements, guidelines, procedures, and 24-hour responses were determined to be no more stringently applied to MH/SUD benefit requests than to those applied to M/S requests.

The analysis HSAG conducted also did not result in any findings of non-parity in either provider admission NQTL category or in the OON/OOS category. Because AH did not close its network to either MH/SUD or M/S providers, HSAG determined that the CCO's provider admission/network closure processes for MH/SUD providers were comparable to and no more stringently applied to M/S providers across all benefit packages. For OON/OOS requests, AH's UM processes were comparable across the two benefit types. While OHP FFS did not use single case agreements (SCAs) for OON providers but instead enrolled the providers, it also applied UM limitations equitably across the two benefit types.

Table 3-1 presents HSAG's overall assessment of AH's compliance based on the analysis of the comparability of NQTL strategies and the stringency applied by AH when implementing NQTLs.

Table 3-1—Overall MHP Analysis Results—Comparability and Stringency

NQTL Category	Comparability	Stringency
Category I—UM Limits Applied to Inpatient Services	Compliant	Non-Compliant
Category II—UM Limits Applied to Outpatient Services	Compliant	Non-Compliant
Category III—Prior Authorization for Prescription Drug Limits	Compliant	Compliant
Category IV—Provider Admission—Closed Network	Compliant	Compliant
Category V—Provider Admission—Network Credentialing	Compliant	Compliant
Category VI—Out-of-Network/Out-of-State Limits	Compliant	Compliant

Findings and Required Actions

Based on the strategy and evidence provided by AH, including reported changes in operations and practices, PA and credentialing data, and discussions during prescheduled conference calls, HSAG analyzed the parity of MH/SUD benefits as compared to M/S benefits. Findings related to areas that impact MHP were documented in the details of each area of NQTL outlined in Appendix B of this report and identified in this section as either parity findings or inconclusive findings that required more information for a parity determination. In addition, HSAG identified required actions for AH to pursue to mitigate any parity concerns.

Table 3-2 presents specific findings of non-parity organized by NQTL category. HSAG's MHP Analysis for AH resulted in four parity findings across two NQTL categories.

Table 3-2—Findings and Required Actions by NQTL Category

#	NQTL Category	Finding	Required Action
1.	Category I—UM Limits Applied to Inpatient Services	For benefit packages CCOE and CCOG, AH's 30-day RR time frame allowance for IP MH/SUD PAs was more stringent than the 90-day time frame allowed by OHP FFS and its subcontractor for IP M/S benefits under CCOE and CCOG benefit packages.	AH should align its IP RR time frame allowance to be consistent with OHP FFS, allowing IP retrospective authorization requests up to 90 days from the date of service. Exceptions should still apply as determined through medical necessity.
2.	Category I—UM Limits Applied to Inpatient Services	For benefit packages CCOE and CCOG, AH's method to promote consistency of IP MH/SUD medical necessity determinations, conducting quarterly audits of authorization but with no testing standard applied, was not sufficiently structured as compared to IP M/S processes in that OHP FFS M/S operations included a formal IRR policy inclusive of an 80 percent standard for authorization reviews conducted at least annually.	AH should develop and align testing standards with OHP FFS's 80 percent testing standard for reviewing IP MH/SUD cases as a method to promote consistency of medical necessity determinations.
3.	Category II—UM Limits Applied to Outpatient Services	For benefit packages CCOE and CCOG, AH's 30-day RR time frame allowance for OP MH/SUD PAs was more stringent than the 90-day time frame allowed by OHP FFS and its subcontractor for OP M/S benefits under CCOE and CCOG benefit packages.	AH should align its OP RR time frame allowance to be consistent with OHP FFS, allowing OP retrospective authorization requests up to 90 days from the date of service. Exceptions should still apply as determined through medical necessity.

#	NQTL Category	Finding	Required Action
4.	Category II—UM Limits Applied to Outpatient Services	For benefit packages CCOE and CCOG, AH's method to promote consistency of OP MH/SUD medical necessity determinations, conducting quarterly audits of authorization but with no testing standard applied, was not sufficiently structured as compared to OP M/S processes in that OHP FFS M/S operations included a formal IRR policy inclusive of an 80 percent standard for authorization reviews conducted at least annually.	AH should develop and align testing standards with OHP FFS's 80 percent testing standard for reviewing OP MH/SUD cases as a method to promote consistency of medical necessity determinations.

Data Analysis Results

AH submitted UM data in the MHP Required Documentation Template, identifying PA counts and denial data for IP, OP, and prescription drug benefits. The reporting also included data on provider admission counts and terminations/denials. The completed templates included data from the period of January 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020. An analysis of the data reported is presented in the text below pertaining to the following categories:

- Utilization Management for Inpatient/Outpatient Services (NQTL Categories I and II).
- Utilization Management for Prescription Drugs (NQTL Category III).
- Enrollment/Credentialing Decisions (NQTL Categories IV and V).

Any findings related to the data analysis were incorporated into the MHP findings and required actions identified in Table 3-2 above according to the corresponding NQTL category to which the data apply.

Utilization Management for Inpatient/Outpatient Services

AH provided requested UM data for IP and OP services pertaining to authorization request counts and outcomes of requests. Table 3-3 presents AH's counts for IP and OP PAs by benefit type, identifying the number of PA requests denied, appealed, and overturned.

Table 3-3—Prior Authorization Counts for Inpatient and Outpatient Services

Prior Authorizations by Benefit Type							
Benefit Type	# of PA Requests	# of PA Requests Denied	% of PA Requests Denied	# of PA Denials Appealed	% of PA Denials Appealed	# of PA Denials Overturned	% of PA Denials Overturned
MH/SUD	374	45	12.03%	1	2.22%	0	0.00%
M/S	7,492	2,074	27.68%	44	2.12%	6	0.29%
Total	**7,866**	**2,119**	**26.94%**	**45**	**2.12%**	**6**	**0.28%**

Observations

HSAG's analysis of AH's PA data for IP and OP benefits did not reveal any concerns related to MHP. The following data points were observed:

- Of the total 7,866 IP and OP PA requests reported, 26.94 percent were denied.
- The 45 reported MH/SUD denials represented only 2.12 percent of total denials, and none of those denials resulted in an overturn on appeal.
- All MH/SUD denials were for OP authorization requests.

Utilization Management for Prescription Drugs

AH provided requested data pertaining to prescription drug authorization request counts and outcomes. Table 3-4 presents AH's PA counts for formulary and non-formulary prescription drug PA requests, identifying the number of requests overturned.

Table 3-4—Prior Authorization Counts for Prescription Drugs

Prior Authorization Counts (Formulary and Non-Formulary)						
# of PA Requests	# of PA Requests Denied	% of PA Requests Denied	# of PA Denials Appealed	% of PA Denials Appealed	# of PA Denials Overturned	% of PA Denials Overturned
2,509	1,280	51.02%	12	0.94%	2	0.16%

Observations

HSAG's analysis of AH's counts for prescription drug PA requests did not reveal any concerns related to parity. The following data points were observed:

- Of the total 2,509 prescription drug PA requests reported, 51.02 percent were denied.
- Less than 1 percent of the 1,280 prescription drug PA request denials were appealed, with only two PA denials resulting in an overturned decision.

- The main denial reason applied to prescription drug PA requests was "insufficient information," which may indicate a need to evaluate the PA process for opportunities for improvement.

Enrollment/Credentialing

AH provided requested data pertaining to provider enrollment requests and outcomes. Table 3-5 presents AH's enrollment/credentialing counts by provider type, identifying the number of terminations and denials, which includes applications not accepted.

Table 3-5—Enrollment/Credentialing Counts by Provider Type

Enrolment/Credentialing Counts by Provider Type						
Provider Type	**Avg. # Enrolled Providers**	**# Providers Terminated**	**% Terminated**	**# of Cred. Requests**	**# of Cred. Requests Denied/Not Accepted**	**% of Cred. Requests Denied/Not Accepted**
MH/SUD	161	0	0.00%	24	0	0.00%
M/S	274	0	0.00%	27	0	0.00%
Total	**435**	**0**	**0.00%**	**51**	**0**	**0.00%**

Observations

HSAG's analysis of AH's provider credentialing data did not reveal any parity concerns due to no denials reported for either MH/SUD or M/S providers seeking credentialing during the reporting period. The following data points were observed:

- Of the 435 reported average number of providers enrolled during the reporting period, 37.01 percent were MH/SUD providers.
- There were no reported denials for any MH/SUD providers seeking credentialing during the reporting period.

Additional Requirement Results

HSAG requested information from AH on the required availability of medical necessity determinations regarding MH/SUD benefits to members, potential members, and contracting providers upon request, and how reasons for denial of reimbursement or payment for MH/SUD benefits were made available to members. While AH did not provide examples as requested, the CCO described its policies on notices of adverse benefit determination for MH/SUD and M/S benefits and how the notices included denial reasons for members. A review of AH's website showed that the CCO had resources available on its website for members that included information on MH benefits available, a prescription drug formulary, and clinical practice guidelines. HSAG determined that AH was compliant with the additional administrative MHP requirements.

4. Improvement Plan Process

To the extent MHP findings or concerns were found, OHP and all CCOs are required to complete and submit an improvement plan addressing corrective actions/interventions to resolve all MHP findings. The improvement plan template is provided in Appendix C. For each of the findings documented in Section 3 of this report, AH must identify the following:

- Interventions planned by the organization to achieve MHP compliance.
- Individual(s) responsible for ensuring that the planned interventions are completed.
- Proposed timeline for completing each planned intervention with the understanding that most corrective actions/interventions can be completed within three months and no longer than six months. Corrective actions/interventions requiring additional time will need to include specific information to determine the appropriateness of the extended time frame.

The improvement plan is due to HSAG no later than 30 days following the organization's receipt of the final 2020 MHP Analysis report. The improvement plan should be uploaded electronically to OHA's deliverables reporting email address: CCO.MCODeliverableReports@dhsoha.state.or.us. HSAG will review the improvement plan using the following criteria to evaluate the sufficiency of each corrective action/intervention identified in the improvement plan to bring performance into compliance:

- Completeness of the improvement plan document in addressing each finding and identifying a responsible individual, a timeline/completion date, and specific corrective actions/interventions that the organization will take.
- Degree to which the planned corrective actions/interventions are anticipated to bring the organization into compliance with MHP requirements.
- Appropriateness of the timeline for the corrective actions/interventions given the nature of the finding.

Once reviewed, HSAG will communicate to the organization whether the improvement plan is approved. If any corrective actions/interventions are determined to not meet the requirements related to correlating findings, HSAG will identify the discrepancies and require resubmission of the improvement plan until it is approved by HSAG. Quarterly reviews of improvement plan progress will be conducted with each CCO via desk reviews and conference calls as necessary to ensure that all planned activities and interventions are completed.

HSAG will be available for technical assistance related to corrective actions/interventions. The CCO may contact either of the following HSAG representatives for assistance:

Melissa Isavoran, Associate Executive Director
misavoran@hsag.com
503.839.9070

Barb McConnell, Executive Director
bmcconnell@hsag.com
303.717.2105

Appendix A. MHP Evaluation Questionnaire

AH submitted its completed MHP Evaluation Questionnaire, which identified changes or additions to benefits design and operations that may impact MHP corresponding with the six NQTL categories. The questionnaire served as a guide for OHA and the CCOs in that responses were used to identify and further document such changes and additions in the finalized MHP NQTL Reporting Tables located in Appendix B of this report.

General Questions for CCOs		
Question		**Yes/No**
1.	Did the CCO add, change, or eliminate delegated administrative functions to a new or for an existing subcontractor (e.g., UM, provider admission, etc.)? ***Documentation Required:*** *Provide contractual requirements (e.g., scope of work) for delegated administrative functions.* *UM and provider credentialing for BH services was transferred fully to the CCO from the delegated entities, Coos Health and Wellness and Curry Community Health. Contracting and credentialing functions were also brought in house. See Advanced Health Behavioral Health Policy and Procedures Section 5.2 (a-f). Advanced Health Network Provider Agreement pg 8 Section 2.1.1*	☒ Yes ☐ No
2.	Did the CCO add or exclude any specific classifications of drugs from its formulary? *See Utilization Management and Service Authorization Handbook Pg 8*	☐ Yes ☒ No
Utilization Management (IP, OP, and Rx) Changes in CCO—MH Parity Analysis Sections I, II, and III		
Question		**Yes/No**
1.	Did the CCO change payment arrangements with some/all providers (e.g., FFS to sub-capitation, per diem to DRG, reduction in payment levels to specific provider types or for specific benefits)? *MH/SUD was fully capitated and delegated to the county mental health provider. in 2020, Advanced Health created contracts to included limited capitation to specific providers offering BH and SUD programing and contracts for FFS for several contracted providers. There was no reduction to total payment. See Advanced Health Network Provider Agreement for contracting examples.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
2.	Did the CCO add or remove numerical limits (e.g., number of units) to MH/SUD or M/S benefits?	☒ Yes

	Numerical limits were removed from MH/SUD services for all contracted providers.	☐ No
3.	Did the CCO add or remove non-numerical benefit limits (e.g., scope or duration of benefits, medical necessity criteria, etc.) to MH/SUD or M/S benefits? *Advanced Health brought UR services in house and contracted with MCG to standardize medical necessity criteria for MH/SUD and M/S benefits. See 2020 Authorization Grid and Advanced Health Behavioral Health Policy and Procedures Section 5.2 (a-f).*	☒ Yes ☐ No
4.	Did the CCO change timelines for authorization requests for MH/SUD or M/S benefits? *See Utilization Management and Service Authorization Handbook Pg 6-7 Timelines for authorizations remained the same. See Authorization Timeframe for Decision Policy and Procedure and Utilization Review Process of Prior Authorization Requests. See Utilization Management and Service Authorization Handbook Pg 6-7*	☐ Yes ☒ No
5.	Did the CCO change documentation requirements for UM requests for MH/SUD or M/S benefits (e.g., evidence of medical necessity, documentation submission requirements)? *Advanced Health brought UR services in house and contracted with Milliman Care Guidelines to standardize medical necessity criteria for MH/SUD and M/S benefits. The documentation requirements remained the same for M/S. MH authorizations were carved out to the MH delegate prior to 2020. Authorizations now follow the same route as M/S benefits. See Evidence Based Reviewer Guide and See Utilization Management and Service Authorization Handbook Pg 3-4.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
6.	Did the CCO change qualifications for reviewers that can authorize or deny requests? *Qualifications remained the same. See Utilization Review Process of Prior Authorization Request page 2 Section 4.7 and Medical Management Responsibility Grid.*	☐ Yes ☒ No
7.	Did the CCO develop or add medical necessity/level of care criteria for MH/SUD or M/S benefits? *In 2020, Advanced Health contracted with Milliman Care Guidelines to establish evidence based standardized review practices throughout the medical management team for M/S and MH/SUD reviews. See Evidence Based Reviewer Guide and Utilization Review Process of Prior Authorization Request Section 5.2, page 4.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
8.	Did the CCO change the method for monitoring consistency of MNC application for MH/SUD or M/S benefits (e.g., standards for consistency of MNC, reliability adherence criteria)? *Service Authorization Handbook Section 5.3 Pg 10 and Monthly UR Process Audit Procedure.*	☐ Yes ☒ No
9.	Did the CCO change/modify penalties for failure to request/receive authorization for MH/SUD or M/S benefits (e.g., payment reductions, exceptions or waivers of penalties)? *No changes. See Utilization Management and Service Authorization Handbook and Service Authorization Handbook Pg 9 and Section 5.8.1 pg 11.*	☐ Yes ☒ No

10.	Did the CCO change frequency, time frames, or conditions of utilization review for MH/SUD or M/S benefits (e.g., RR or CR time frames or conditions)? *No changes. See Utilization Management and Service Authorization Handbook Pg 6*	☐ Yes ☒ No
11.	What is the number of coverage requests, denials, appeals, appeal overturns, hearings, and hearing overturns experienced during the last full calendar year separately for MH/SUD and M/S for each classification (IP, OP, and Rx)? ***Documentation Required:*** *Provide lists that identify the number of coverage requests, denials, appeals, appeal overturns, hearings, and hearing overturns for the last full calendar year separately for MH/SUD and M/S for each classification (i.e., IP, OP, and Rx). For Rx, include a list identifying the number of drugs subject to PA.* *See MHP REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TEMPATE EXCEL FILE enrollment UM_Inpatient_Outpatient tab*	☐ Yes ☐ No

Benefit Type	Number of Prior Authorization Requests	Number of Prior Authorization Denials	Number of Denials Appealed	Number of Appeal Overturns	Number of Denials Resulting in Hearings	Number of Hearing Appeals	N O D
MH/SUD	374	44	1	0	1	0	
M/S	7492	1233	44	6	3	0	

Provider Network Admission Changes in CCO—MH Parity Analysis Sections IV and V		
Question		**Yes/No**
1.	Did the CCO change its network status from open (accepting new provider applications) to closed (not accepting new provider applications for certain provider types) or from closed to open? *Advanced Health moved from a capitated arrangement for MH/SUD to an open network. Providers seeking to enter the network can complete the credentialing process and enter into contract for MH/SUD services. M/S services continue to perform on an open network status.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
2.	Did the CCO add, remove, or change provider admission requirements (e.g., special training, education, experience), including as a result of State licensing changes, for any MH/SUD or M/S providers?	☐ Yes ☒ No
3.	Were any of the CCO's providers denied credentialing due to network closure (if applicable) or based on credentialing requirements?	☐ Yes ☒ No

Documentation Required: *Provide a list of the number and percentage of providers denied credentialing (relative to those seeking credentialing, including the number of applications not accepted) or terminated from credentialing and provide the credentialing determination.*

See MHP REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TEMPATE EXCEL FILE enrollment credentialing tab

Type	Average Number of Credentialed Providers	Number of Enrolled/Credentialed Providers Terminated	Number of Providers Seeking Enrollment/ Credentialing (include application requests not resulting in a complete application)	Number of Providers Enrolled/Credentialed	Number of Pro Enrollment/C (including app accep
MH/SUD	24	0	24	24	
M/S	27	0	27	27	

4.	Did the CCO add or remove any MH/SUD or M/S provider types that are eligible for credentialing/reimbursement for services?	☐ Yes ☒ No

Out-of-Network/Out-of-State Limit Changes in CCO—MH Parity Analysis Section VI		
Question		**Yes/No**
1.	Did the CCO change processes for accessing OON/OOS coverage for MH/SUD or M/S benefits? ***Documentation Required:*** *Provide the number and percentage of OON/OOS requests, denials, etc. received during the last calendar year.* *Advanced Health Behavioral Health Policy and Procedure Section 6.1(d)page 20, 2020 Authorization Grid and Utilization Review Process of Prior Authorization Request Section 4.8 Pg 3.*	☐ Yes ☒ No
2.	Did the CCO change its standards for providing OON/OOS coverage for MH/SUD or M/S benefits? *Advanced Health Behavioral Health Policy and Procedure Section 6.1(d)page 20, 2020 Authorization Grid and Utilization Review Process of Prior Authorization Request Section 4.8 Pg .*	☐ Yes ☒ No

Appendix B. Finalized MHP NQTL Reporting Tables

AH submitted a completed MHP Reporting Template, which identified changes or additions to NQTLs that may impact MHP. HSAG synthesized the changes and additions to NQTLs with those reported in the CCO's 2018 MHP Analysis. Below are the finalized MHP NQTLs reported and assessed for the 2020 MHP Analysis by each of the six NQTL categories across MH/SUD and M/S benefits. Each NQTL was addressed based on comparability and stringency standards.

Category I—Utilization Management Limits Applied to Inpatient Services

NQTL: UM limits including PA, CR, RR, and IRR

Benefit Package: CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG for adults and children

Classification: IP and emergency care

Overview: MH/SUD and M/S IP benefits require notification for emergency admissions. PA is not required for emergency care but is applied to most other IP benefits including residential treatment. PA and CR are applied to IP benefits to confirm coverage, assure services are medically necessary and delivered in the least restrictive environment, and reduce overutilization of these high-cost services. These rationalizations were identified as indicators 1, 2, and 4 as listed in comparability and stringency Standard #2 below, which cross-reference to indicators used by OHP FFS. HSAG analyzed NQTLs applied to IP benefits based on information provided related to all six comparability and stringency standards as listed below. The benefit packages were analyzed as follows:

- **Benefit packages A and B:** MH/SUD benefits in columns 1 (CCO MH/SUD) and 2 (FFS MH/SUD) compared using indicators 1–4 to M/S benefits in column 3 (CCO M/S). These benefit packages include MH/SUD IP benefits managed by the CCO and OHA through its subcontractors, Comagine Health and Keystone Peer Review Organization (KEPRO), as compared to M/S IP benefits in column 3 managed by the CCO.
- **Benefit packages E and G:** MH/SUD benefits in columns 1 (CCO MH/SUD) and 2 (FFS MH/SUD) compared using indicators 1, 2, and 4 to M/S benefits in column 4 (FFS M/S). These benefit packages include MH/SUD IP benefits managed by the CCO and OHA through Comagine Health and KEPRO, as compared to M/S IP benefits in column 4 managed by OHA.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
1. To which benefit is the NQTL assigned?			
• (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7) PA and CR are required for planned non-emergency admissions to acute IP (in and out-of-network (OON)), PRTS, subacute and 10 days after an IP SUD detoxification admission. • (1,2,3,4,6,7) Emergency admissions require notification within one business day of admission and subsequent CR. In practice, the CCO does not penalize providers. • (1,4) Extra-contractual and experimental/investigational/ unproven benefit requests (i.e., exceptions) are submitted through a PA-like process.	• (1, 4) PA (only) for MH/SUD procedures performed in a medical facility (e.g., gender reassignment surgery authorizations, experimental/investigational, and extra-contractual benefits are conducted by OHA consistent with the information in column 2). • (2, 4) A level-of-care review is required for SCIP, SAIP and subacute care that is conducted by an OHA designee. • (1, 4) PA for SCIP, SAIP and subacute admission is obtained through a peer-to-peer review between a Comagine psychiatrist and the referring psychiatrist. • (1, 2, 4) CR Comagine RR for SCIP and SAIP are performed by Comagine. • (1, 2, 4) CR and RR for subacute care are conducted by Comagine. • (1, 2, 4) PA, inclusive of a Certificate of Need (CONS)	• (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7) PA and CR are required for planned non-emergency admissions to IP hospital, (in and OON) and IP hospice/palliative care (excludes routine maternity, which are 7% of admissions). • (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7) Emergency admissions require notification with in one business day of admission and subsequent CR. • (1, 2, 3, 4) Skilled nursing facility benefits (first 20 days) require PA. • (1, 4) Extra-contractual and experimental/investigational/ unproven benefit requests (i.e., exceptions) are submitted through a PA-like process.	• (1, 2, 4) PA and CR are required for in-state and OOS planned surgical procedures (including transplants) and associated imaging, rehabilitation and professional surgical services delivered in an inpatient setting and listed in OAR 410-130-0200, Table 130-0200-1; rehabilitation, and long term acute care (LTAC).(Notification is required for all IP admissions). • (1, 2, 4) PA, CR and RR for Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS) are performed by OHA, DHS or OYA designee. • (1, 2, 4) PA and CR of skilled nursing facility (SNF) services. • (1, 4) Requests for extra-contractual and experimental/investigational /unproven benefits (i.e., exceptions) are submitted through a PA-like process.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	process, and CR, is conducted by Comagine for PRTS. • (1, 2, 4) PA, CR for AFH, SRTF, SRTH, YAP, RTF, and RTH are performed by Comagine.		
2. Why is the NQTL assigned to these benefits?			
• (1) To ensure coverage, medical necessity and prevent unnecessary utilization (e.g., in violation of relevant OARs and associated Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) Priority List (PL) and guideline notes), and MCG. • (2) Ensure appropriate treatment in the least restrictive environment that maintains the safety of the individual. • (3) Maximize use of INN providers to promote cost-effectiveness when appropriate. • (4) To comply with federal and state requirements. • (6) Preserve limited IP resources.	• (1) UM is assigned to ensure medical necessity of services and prevent overutilization (e.g., matching the level of need to the least restrictive setting using the LOCUS – Level-of-Care utilization system and LSI – Level of Service Inventory or PCSP – Person Centered Service Plan and IBL – Individually-Based Limitations) of these high cost services. • (2) Ensure appropriate treatment in the least restrictive environment that maintains the safety of the individual (e.g., matching the level of need to the least restrictive setting using the LOCUS – Level-of-Care Utilization System and LSI – Level of Service Inventory or	• (1) To ensure coverage, medical necessity and prevent unnecessary utilization (e.g., in violation of relevant OARs and associated HERC PA and guideline notes), and MCG. • (2) Ensure appropriate treatment in the least restrictive environment that maintains the safety of the individual. • (3) Maximize use of INN providers to promote cost-effectiveness when appropriate. • (4) To comply with federal and State requirements • (6) Preserve limited IP resources. • (7) Opportunity to provider care coordination for safe transitions as well as to	• (1) PA and CR are assigned to ensure medical necessity of services and prevent overutilization (e.g., requests for care that are not medically necessary or in violation of relevant OARs, the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) PL and guidelines). • (2) Ensure appropriate treatment in the least restrictive environment that maintains the safety of the individual. • (4) To comply with federal and State requirements.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
• (7) Opportunity to provider care coordination for safe transitions as well as to ensure provision of additional supports and services to address high risk period immediately following discharge.	PCSP – Person Centered Service Plan and IBL – Individually-Based Limitations). • (4) To comply with federal and State requirements.	ensure provision of additional supports and services to address high risk period immediately following discharge.	
3. What evidence supports the rationale for the assignment?			
• (1, 2 and 4) HERC PL and guidelines, MCG. • (1) UM and claims reports are reviewed for trends in overutilization on a quarterly basis. Have determined average length of stay for adults and youth, by diagnosis and presenting problem. Evaluates outliers. • (1) Annual cost and utilization reports that confirm IP as a cost driver based on percentage of spend. • (2) Oregon Performance Plan (OPP) requires that BH services be provided in least restrictive setting possible. The OPP is a DOJ-negotiated Olmsted settlement. Also see Roberts, E., Cumming, J and	• (1, 2, and 4) Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) Prioritized List (PL) and guidelines. The HERC include 13 appointed members which include five physicians, a dentist, a public health nurse, a pharmacist and an insurance industry representative, a provider of complementary and alternative medicine, a behavioral health representative and two consumer representatives. The Commission is charged with maintaining a prioritized list of services, developing or identifying evidence-based health care guidelines and conducting comparative effectiveness research. HERC	• (1, 2 and 4) HERC PL and guidelines, MCG. • (1) UM and claims reports are reviewed for trends in overutilization on a quarterly basis • (1) Annual cost and utilization reports that confirm IP as a cost driver based on percentage of spend. • (2) Medical errors in the hospital is the third leading cause of death in the US. Makary, M. & Daniel, M. Medical Error - The Third Leading Cause of Death in the US, BMJ, 2016;353:i2139. • (3) Network providers' credentials have been verified	• (1, 2 and 4) The HERC PL and guidelines. There are more guidelines for M/S than for MH/SUD because 1) there are more technological procedures (e.g., surgery, devices, procedures and diagnostic tests); and 2) the literature is more robust. • (1) InterQual • (1) PA staff reports. If the UM team identifies any services for which utilization appears to be increasing (e.g., number of requests) or it appears that the State is paying for medically unnecessary care, the UM team consults with the health analytics team to analyze and evaluate adjustments to PA or CR.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
Nelson, K., A Review of Economic Evaluations of Community Mental Health Care, Sage Journals, Oct. 1, 2005, 1-13. Accessed May 25, 2018. http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1077558705279307 • (2) Inherent restrictiveness of residential settings and dangers associated with seclusion and restraint. Also see Cusack, K.J., Frueh, C., Hiers, T., et. Al., Trauma with in the Psychiatric Setting: A Preliminary Empirical Report, Human Services Press, Inc., 2003. 453-460. • (3) Network providers' credentials have been verified and they have contracted to accept the network rate. • (4) Applicable federal and state requirements.	provides outcome evidence and clinical guidelines for certain diagnoses that may be translated into UM requirements. There are fewer guidelines for MH/SUD than for M/S. This is because 1) there are fewer technological procedures for MH/SUD (e.g., cognitive behavioral therapy and psychodynamic therapy are billed using the same codes, no surgeries, few devices); 2) the MH/SUD literature is not as robust (e.g., fewer randomized trials, more subjective diagnoses (or the ICD-10-CM diagnoses represent a spectrum) and less standardization in interventions). • (1) InterQual.	and they have contracted to accept the network rate. • (4) Applicable federal and State requirements. • (6) Michael Morris, Emergency Department Boarding of Psychiatric Patients in Oregon: Report Briefing, OHA Public Health Division, OHA 0730 (12/16), February 1, 2017 pp 1-16. • (7) Dharmarajan, K., Hsieh, A. Kulkarni, V et al., Trajectories of risk after hospitalization for heart failure, acute myocardial infraction or pneumonia: retrospective cohort study, BMJ 2015;350:h411.	• (1) Health analytics reports. The health analytics team and policy analysts refer services that have been identified to have increasing utilization to the UM team for evaluation.
4. What are the NQTL procedures?			
Timelines for authorizations: • Emergency requests are processed within 24 hours. Urgent requests are processed within 72 hours. Standard	**Timelines for gender reassignment surgery authorizations: (OHA)**	**Timelines for authorizations:** • Emergency requests are processed within 24 hours. Urgent requests are processed within 72 hours. Standard	**Timelines for authorizations**: • All in-state and out-of-state (OOS) emergency admissions, LTAC, and IP rehabilitation require notification. Notification

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
requests are to be processed within 14 days.	• Standard requests are to be processed within 14 days. **Timelines for child residential authorizations**: **(OHA)** • OHA provides the initial authorization (level-of-care review) within three days of receiving complete requests for SCIP, SAIP or subacute. **(Comagine)** • Authorization requests for PRTS are submitted prior to admission or within 14 days of an emergency admission. An emergency admission is acceptable only under unusual and extreme circumstances, subject to RR by Comagine. **Timelines for adult residential and YAP authorizations**: **(Comagine Health)** • Emergency requests are processed within one business day, urgent within two business days, and standard requests within 10 business days.	requests are to be processed within 14 days, although a backlog may develop. Can be up to 28 days if additional information is needed.	is preferred within 24 hours of admission, but there is no timeline requirement. Notification allows the State to conduct case management and discharge planning, but does not limit the scope or duration of the benefit. • PA is required before admission. • OARs require emergency requests be processed within one business day, urgent requests within three business days and standard requests within 14 days.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
Documentation requirements: • Records supporting medical necessity such as the admission summary and progress notes. • Some providers may be reviewed through the EHR. • Documentation requirements for child residential PA/level-of-care review include a psychiatric evaluation or a psychiatrist-to-psychiatrist telephonic review. • Adult residential benefits are managed by the county mental health programs, Coos Health and Wellness and Curry Community Health. They require an assessment (i.e., completion of a relevant level-of-care tool (e.g., ASAM, LSI, LOCUS) and plan-of-care consistent with State plan requirements. • Consistent with OARs, federal CONS procedures, and due to the potential absence of a psychiatric referral, the PRTS documentation requirements	**Documentation requirements (OHA):** • PA documentation requirements for non-residential MH/SUD benefits include a form that consists of a cover page. Diagnostic and CPT code information and a rationale for medical necessity must be provided, plus any additional supporting documentation. • The documentation requirement for level-of-care assessment for SCIP, SAIP and subacute is a psychiatric evaluation. Other information may be reviewed when available. **Documentation requirements for PRTF CONS and CR for PRTF, SCIP and SAIP (Comagine)**: • PRTS CONS requires documentation that supports the justification for child residential services, including: – A cover sheet detailing relevant provider and recipient	**Documentation requirements:** • Records supporting medical necessity such as the admission summary and progress notes. • Some providers may be reviewed through the EHR.	**Documentation requirements**: • PA documentation requirements include a form that consists of a cover page. Diagnostic and CPT code information and a rationale for medical necessity must be provided, plus any additional supporting documentation.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
include a cover sheet, a behavioral health assessment and service plan meeting the requirements described in OAR 309-019-0135 through 0140.	– Medicaid numbers; – Requested dates of service; – HCPCS or CPT Procedure code requested; and – Amount of service or units requested; – A behavioral health assessment and service plan meeting the requirements described in OAR 309-019-0135 through 0140; or – Any additional supporting clinical information supporting medical justification for the services requested; – For substance use disorder services (SUD), the Division uses the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Patient Placement Criteria second edition-revised (PPC-2R) to determine the appropriate level of SUD treatment of care. • There are no specific documentation requirements		

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	for CR of PRTS, SCIP or SAIP. **Documentation requirements (Comagine Health)**: • Documentation may include assessment, service plan, plan-of-care, Level-of-Care Utilization System (LOCUS), Level of Service Inventory (LSI), PCSP, IBL, or other relevant documentation.		
Method of document submission: • Clinical information is provided telephonically, electronically or by fax for review. • CR can also be done by a nurse in the hospital with access to the EHR. • The reviewer may attend an individual's treatment review every 3 months but goes to the hospital daily.	**Method of document submission (OHA):** • For non-residential MH/SUD services, paper (fax) or online PA requests are submitted prior to the delivery of services for which PA is required. • For SCIP, SAIP and subacute level-of-care review, the OHA designee may accept information via fax, mail or secure email and has also picked up information. Supplemental information may be obtained by phone. **Method of document submission (Comagine):** • Packets are submitted to Comagine by mail, fax, email	**Method of document submission:** • Notification via fax or phone, followed by medical records either by fax or by electronic interface with EHR.	**Method of document submission**: • Paper (fax) or online PA requests are submitted prior to the delivery of services for which PA is required.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	or web portal for review for child residential services. Telephonic clarification may be obtained. • Psychiatrist to psychiatrist review is telephonic. **Method of document submission (Comagine Health):** Providers submit authorization requests for adult MH residential to Comagine Health by mail, fax, email or via portal, but documentation must still be faxed if the request is through portal. Telephonic clarification may be obtained.		
Qualifications of reviewers: • Licensed mental health professionals gather relevant clinical information from the provider and conduct medical necessity review. • Only a physician makes denial decisions	**Qualifications of reviewers (OHA)**: • OHA M/S staff conduct PA and CR (if applicable) for gender reassignment surgery. • The OHA designee is a licensed, master's-prepared therapist that reviews psychiatric evaluations to approve or deny the level-of-care requested. Psychiatric consultation is available if needed.	**Qualifications of reviewers:** • Reviewers may be trained, unlicensed staff working via protocol and guidelines or licensed staff including RNs. • Denials must be review by a physician.	**Qualifications of reviewers**: Nurses may authorize and deny authorization requests relative to OAR, HERC PL guidelines and associated notes, and other industry guidelines (e.g., AIM for radiology).

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	Qualifications of reviewers (Comagine): • Two reviewers with QMHP designation make residential authorization decisions. • Two psychiatrists make CONS determinations. **Qualifications of reviewers (Comagine Health)**: • Comagine Health QMHPs must meet minimum qualifications (see below) and demonstrate the ability to conduct and review an assessment, including identifying precipitating events, gathering histories of mental and physical health, substance use, past mental health services and criminal justice contacts, assessing family, cultural, social and work relationships, and conducting/reviewing a mental status examination, complete a DSM diagnosis, and write and supervise the implementation of a PCSP. • A QMHP must meet one of the follow conditions:		

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	– Bachelor's degree in nursing and licensed by the State of Oregon; – Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and licensed by the State of Oregon; – Graduate degree in psychology; – Graduate degree in social work; – Graduate degree in recreational, art, or music therapy; – Graduate degree in a behavioral science field; or – A qualified Mental Health Intern, as defined in 309-019-0105(61).		
Criteria: • Authorization decisions are based on the State's definition of medical necessity and OARs, ORS, HERC PL and guidelines, MCG, ASAM, or clinical policy/guidelines.	**Criteria (OHA)**: • Authorizations for non-residential MH/SUD services are based on the HERC PL and guidelines; Oregon Statute, OAR, and federal regulations; InterQual guidelines; and evidence-based guidelines from private and professional associations.	**Criteria:** • OARs, HERC PL and guidelines, MCG, and federal guidelines.	**Criteria**: • Authorizations are based on the HERC PL and guidelines; Oregon Statute, OAR, and federal regulations; InterQual guidelines; and evidence-based guidelines from private and professional associations, such as the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons and InterQual, where

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	• OHA delegates review requests relative to least restrictive environment requirement. **Criteria (Comagine)**: • HERC PL, InterQual, and Comagine policy are used for residential CR. **Criteria (Comagine Health)**: • QMHPs review information submitted by providers relative to State plan and OAR requirements and develop a PCSP. • The PCSP components are entered into MMIS as an authorization.		no State or federal guidelines exist.
Reconsideration/RR: • Prior to a denial for IP services, a provider-to-provider review is offered. If MNC are not met for the LOC requested, a denial is issued and an alternative LOC is offered and authorized, for which the reviewer may consult a physician. • If providers fail to obtain authorization in advance, they may submit a post-service claim for review.	**Retrospective Review:** • Retrospective authorization requests can be made within 90 days of the date of service or after the 90 days based on provider demonstration of a specific reason why authorization could not have been obtained within the 90 days. **Reconsideration (OHA)**: • A provider may request review of an OHA denial decision for nonresidential	**Recommendation/RR:** • RR is available in limit circumstances (see below)	**Retrospective Review:** • Retrospective authorization requests can be made within 90 days of the date of service or after the 90 days based on provider demonstration of a specific reason why authorization could not have been obtained within the 90 days. **Reconsideration**: • A provider may request review of a denial decision. The review

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	MH/SUD services. The review occurs in weekly Medical Management Committee (MMC) meetings. • Exception requests for experimental and other non-covered benefits may be granted at the discretion of the MMC, which is led by the HSD medical director. • If a provider requests review of an OHA delegate level-of-care determination, KEPRO may conduct the second review. **Reconsideration (Comagine)**: • If the facility requests a reconsideration of a CONS denial, a second psychiatrist (who did not make the initial decision) will review the documentation and discuss with the facility in a formal meeting. • No policy for CR denials. **Reconsideration (Comagine Health)**: • Within 10 days of a denial, the provider may send additional documentation to		occurs in weekly MMC meetings. • Exception requests for experimental and other non-covered benefits may be granted at the discretion of the MMC, which is led by the OHA's medical director.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	Comagine Health for reconsideration. • A provider may request review of a denial decision, which occurs in weekly MMC meetings or Comagine Health's own comparable medical management meeting.		
Appeals: • Standard appeal processes apply.	**Appeals (OHA)**: • Members may request a hearing on any denial decision. **Appeals (Comagine)**: • Members may request a hearing on any denial decision. **Appeals (Comagine Health)**: Members may request a hearing on any denial decision.	**Appeals:** • Standard appeal processes apply.	**Appeals**: • Standard appeal and fair hearing rights apply.
Consequences for failure to authorize: • Failure to obtain authorization can result in non-payment for benefits for which it is required. Failure to provide notification does not result in a financial penalty.	**Consequences for failure to authorize (OHA)**: • Failure to obtain authorization for non-residential MH/SUD services can result in non-payment for benefits for which it is required. • Failure to obtain notification for non-residential MH/SUD	**Consequences for failure to authorize:** • Services without prior authorization/approved LOS are denied payment.	**Consequences for failure to authorize**: • Failure to obtain authorization can result in non-payment for benefits for which it is required. • Failure to obtain notification does not result in a financial penalty.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	services does not result in a financial penalty. • For SCIP, SAIP and subacute, if coverage is retroactively denied, general funds will be used to cover the cost of care. **Consequences for failure to authorize (Comagine)**: • Non-coverage. **Consequences for failure to authorize (Comagine Health)**: • Failure to obtain authorization can result in non-payment for benefits for which it is required.		
5. How frequently or strictly is the NQTL applied?			
Frequency of review (and method of payment): • MH: IP care is paid on a per diem basis. SUD IP is capitated. • PA and CR are required for planned non-emergency admissions to acute IP (in and OON), PRTS, subacute and 10 days after an IP SUD detoxification admission. • CR is conducted every 3-5 days for MH hospital. CR is	**Frequency of review (and method of payment) (OHA)**: • Gender reassignment surgery is authorized as a procedure. • The initial authorization for SCIP, SAIP, and subacute is 30 days. **Frequency of review (and method of payment) (Comagine)**: • Child residential services are paid by per diem.	**Frequency of review (and method of payment):** • IP care is sub-capitated at the hospital where most IP admissions occur. Other hospitals may be paid by DRG. CAHs are paid a percentage of billed charges. • Daily reviews are conducted with the sub-capitated provider, DRGs and CAH hospitals.	

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
incorporated into daily treatment reviews for SUD (employee model). CR occurs every 4-5 days for detox. • Sub-acute is reviewed every 3 days due to an average length of stay of 7-10 days and the intensity of the service • SUD residential is reviewed every 7-10 days due to an average ALOS of 30 days. • PRTS is reviewed every 14 days to 30 days due to ALOS of 60 days.	• Child residential services authorizations are conducted every 30-90 days. **Frequency of review (and method of payment) (Comagine Health)**: Adult residential authorizations are conducted at least once per year. An independent and qualified agent (IQA) contacts MH provider quarterly for 1915i assessment accuracy. If member's status changes for more than 30 days, provider can contact IQA for a re-assessment.	• SNF: Fax documentation approximately weekly; more frequently if clinical condition requires. • LTAC is reviewed weekly with an ALOS of 20-28 days. • M/S IP rehabilitation is reviewed weekly due to estimated ALOS of 2-6 weeks.	
RR conditions and timelines: • Exceptions come in the form of retroactive requests that can be obtained in special circumstances. • RR is considered when the member has had a recent change in eligibility or a retroactive change in eligibility or another extenuating circumstance (member and facility not aware of coverage).	**Retrospective Review:** • Retrospective authorization requests can be made within 90 days of the date of service or after the 90 days based on provider demonstration of a specific reason why authorization could not have been obtained within the 90 days. **Reconsideration (OHA)**: A provider may request review of an OHA denial decision for nonresidential	**RR conditions and timelines:** • Exceptions come in the form of retroactive requests that can be obtained in special circumstances. • RR is considered when the member has had a recent change in eligibility or a retroactive change in eligibility or another extenuating circumstance (member and facility not aware of coverage).	**Retrospective Review:** • Retrospective authorization requests can be made within 90 days of the date of service or after the 90 days based on provider demonstration of a specific reason why authorization could not have been obtained within the 90 days. **Reconsideration**: • A provider may request review of a denial decision. The review

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
• Retro requests are generally limited to 30 days after the date of service, 45 days in practice, with exceptions allowed.	MH/SUD services. The review occurs in weekly Medical Management Committee (MMC) meetings. Exception requests for experimental and other non-covered benefits may be granted at the discretion of the MMC, which is led by the HSD medical director. • If a provider requests review of an OHA delegate level-of-care determination, KEPRO may conduct the second review. **Reconsideration (Comagine)**: • If the facility requests a reconsideration of a CONS denial, a second psychiatrist (who did not make the initial decision) will review the documentation and discuss with the facility in a formal meeting. • No policy for CR denials. **Reconsideration (Comagine Health)**: • Within 10 days of a denial, the provider may send additional documentation to	• Retro requests are generally limited to 30 days after the date of service, 45 days in practice, with exceptions allowed.	occurs in weekly MMC meetings. • Exception requests for experimental and other non-covered benefits may be granted at the discretion of the MMC, which is led by the OHA's medical director.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	Comagine Health for reconsideration. • A provider may request review of a denial decision, which occurs in weekly MMC meetings or Comagine Health's own comparable medical management meeting.		
Methods to promote consistent application of criteria: • MNC application is overseen via case conference and supervision.	**Methods to promote consistent application of criteria (OHA)**: • Nurses are trained on the application of the HERC PL and guidelines, which is spot-checked through ongoing supervision. Whenever possible, practice guidelines from clinical professional organizations such as the American Medical Association or the American Psychiatric Association, are used to establish PA frequency for non-residential MH/SUD services. • There are only two OHA designee reviewers for level-of-care review for SCIP, SAIP, and subacute and no specific criteria, so N/A.	**Methods to promote consistent application of criteria:** • MNC application is overseen via case conference and supervision.	**Methods to promote consistent application of criteria**: • Nurses are trained on the application of the HERC PL and guidelines, which is spot-checked through ongoing supervision. Whenever possible, practice guidelines from clinical professional organizations such as the American Medical Association or the American Psychiatric Association, are used to establish PA frequency for services in the FFS system.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	Methods to promote consistent application of criteria (Comagine): • Parallel chart reviews for the two reviewers. (No criteria.) **Methods to promote consistent application of criteria (Comagine Health)**: • Monthly clinical team meetings in which randomly audited charts are reviewed/discussed by peers using Comagine Health compliance department-approved audit tool. • Results of the audit are compared, shared and discussed by the team and submitted to Compliance Department monthly for review and documentation. • Individual feedback is provided to each clinician during supervision on their authorization as well as plan-of-care reviews.		

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
6.What standard supports the frequency or rigor with which the NQTL is applied?			
Evidence for UM frequency: • Frequency of review is based on diagnosis, presenting condition, average length of stay, intensity of service and availability of resources. (See specifics above.) • HERC PL and guidelines.	**Evidence for UM frequency (OHA (and designee for level-of-care review), Comagine and KEPRO)**: • PA length and CR frequency are tied to HERC PL and guidelines, OAR, CFRs, InterQual, reviewer expertise and timelines for expectations of improvement.	• Evidence for UM frequency: Frequency of review is based on experience and expectations for improvement. • HERC PL and guidelines and medical appropriateness are reviewed once; CR beyond expected stay. (See specifics above.)	**Evidence for UM frequency**: • PA length and CR frequency are tied to HERC PL and guidelines, DRGs, OAR, CFRs, InterQual, reviewer expertise and timelines for expectations of improvement.
Data reviewed to determine UM application: • PA & CR: Denial and appeal rates are monitored. • IRR standard: Monthly reviews, no standard. • Results of criteria application: Appeal overturn rate was 0	**Data reviewed to determine UM application**: • Denial/appeal overturn rates; number of PA requests; stabilization of cost trends; and number of hearings requested. These data are reviewed in subcontractor reports, on a quarterly basis by the State. (Applicable to non-residential MH/SUD services.) **Data reviewed to determine UM application (Comagine)**: • N/A **Data reviewed to determine UM application (Comagine Health):** • N/A	**Data reviewed to determine UM application:** • PA & CR: Denial and appeal rates are monitored. • IRR standard: Monthly reviews, no standard. • Results of criteria application: Appeal overturn rate was 0	**Data reviewed to determine UM application**: • A physician led group of clinical professionals conducts an annual review to determine which services receive or retain PA. Items reviewed include: – Utilization. – Approval/denial rates. – Documentation/ justification of services. – Cost data.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
Analysis			
AH was responsible for delivering IP MH/SUD and M/S Medicaid benefits to members in all four benefit packages (CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG), whereas OHP FFS was fully managing IP M/S benefits for CCOE and CCOG benefit packages. Emergency MH/SUD and M/S IP hospital admissions required notification, with most ongoing IP services requiring subsequent CR. Regarding nonemergent CCO MH/SUD and M/S IP admissions, PA or level-of-care approval was required. PA was also required for extra-contractual coverage requests (including experimental services); planned surgical procedures (including transplants); and associated imaging, rehabilitation, and professional surgical services delivered in an IP setting and listed in OAR 410-130-0200, Table 130-0200-1. For psychiatric residential treatment services (PRTS) benefits (e.g., Secure Children's Inpatient Programs [SCIPs], Secure Adolescent Inpatient Programs [SAIPs], and adult and youth residential services) delivered under all benefit packages, OHP FFS's subcontractor, Comagine Health, was conducting the CON and PA processes, with the CCO conducting CR for those services. The CCO was also conducting CR for MH/SUD subacute benefits. For M/S benefits under CCOA and CCOB benefit packages, the CCO was conducting PA and CR for SNF benefits for the first 20 days, with subsequent management being conducted by OHP FFS. HSAG's analysis of AH's PA data for IP and OP benefits did not reveal any concerns related to MHP. Of the total 7,866 IP and OP PA requests reported, 26.94 percent were denied. Of the 374 MH/SUD PA requests, 12.03 percent were denied, with only one of those denials resulting in an appeal; no overturns were reported. None of the MH/SUD denials were attributed to IP authorization requests. **Comparability** UM was assigned to MH/SUD and M/S IP benefits primarily using five rationales: 1) To ensure coverage, medical necessity, and prevent unnecessary overutilization (e.g., in violation of relevant OARs, HERC PL and guidelines, MCG, and other clinical practice guidelines or research); 2) To ensure appropriate treatment in the least restrictive environment that maintains the safety of the individual; 3) To maximize use of in-network (INN) providers to promote cost-effectiveness when appropriate; 4) To comply with federal and State requirements; and 5) To preserve scarce resources as evidenced by documented bed shortages. In addition, the CCO conducted UM for MH/SUD and M/S to preserve limited resources and facilitate safe transitions as supported by recent studies. HSAG determined the rationale and evidence to be comparable. Emergency MH/SUD and M/S IP hospital admissions required notification within one business day, with child emergency residential admissions separately requiring notification within 14 days. Most CCO documentation requirements for MH/SUD include an admission note and records submitted via telephone, fax, or electronically. OARs required authorization decisions within 24 hours for emergencies, 72 hours for urgent requests, and 14 days for standard requests. Both AH and OHP FFS adhered to these requirements across the benefit packages. Most ongoing IP services required subsequent CR. Most documentation requirements for MH/SUD and M/S IP admissions included information that supports medical necessity such as the admission summary and progress notes. MH/SUD UM staff attended treatment review meetings every three months and made daily hospital visits. Documentation requirements for child residential PA/level-of-care review included a psychiatric evaluation or a			

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S

psychiatrist-to-psychiatrist telephonic review. Comagine Health, OHP FFS's subcontractor, accepted information for child residential CR via mail, email, fax, and Web portal. Adult and youth residential required an assessment (i.e., completion of a relevant level-of-care tool [e.g., ASAM, LSI, or LOCUS]) and plan-of-care consistent with State plan requirements. Comagine Health documentation submission could be done using mail, email, fax, or Web portal. Consistent with OARs, federal CON procedures, and due to the potential absence of a psychiatric referral, the PRTS documentation requirements included a cover sheet, a behavioral health assessment, and service plan meeting the requirements described in OAR 309-019-0135 through 0140. HSAG determined the MH/SUD authorization time frames and documentation requirements were comparable to those applied to M/S authorization requests.

Stringency

Qualified individuals conducted UM applying OARs, HERC, MCG, national guidelines, and ASAM for CCO SUD. The CCO and OHP FFS subcontractors required all MH/SUD and M/S denials to be made by professional peers; however, nurses could deny benefits managed by OHP FFS. HSAG determined this difference to be an issue of quality rather than parity. OHP FFS's subcontractor, Comagine Health (a licensed MH professional), made denial determinations for level-of-care review for certain child residential services. Both the CCO and OHP FFS allowed RR for MH/SUD and M/S when providers failed to obtain authorization. Although exceptions to these time frames were allowed by both the CCO and OHP FFS, AH's 30-day RR time frame allowance for IP MH/SUD PAs was more stringent than the 90-day time frame allowed by OHP FFS and its subcontractor for IP M/S benefits. For adult and youth residential services, Comagine Health allowed reconsideration of denials with the submission of additional documentation within 10 days of the denial. For OHP FFS and Comagine Health, the review of denial decisions occurred during MMC meetings. MH/SUD and M/S denial decisions could be appealed through appeals and/or State fair hearing processes. Failure to obtain authorization could result in noncoverage, although SCIP, SAIP, and subacute services could be covered by general fund dollars. Regarding IRR, the CCO was conducting quarterly reviews of monthly authorization reports using an EZ-CAP tool but had no testing standard, whereas OHP FFS had a formal IRR policy inclusive of an 80 percent standard for authorization reviews conducted at least annually. HSAG determined the inconsistency to be a parity concern across CCOE and CCOG benefit packages.

Outcome

HSAG's analysis determined that the rationale, documentation requirements, processes, and frequency of UM applied to OP MH/SUD benefits were comparable to those applied to OP M/S benefits; however, it was determined that the rigor with which UM was applied to MH/SUD benefits was more stringent in relation to RR and IRR for CCOE and CCOG benefit packages as detailed in the findings below.

Finding #1: For benefit packages CCOE and CCOG, AH's 30-day RR time frame allowance for IP MH/SUD PAs was more stringent than the 90-day time frame allowed by OHP FFS and its subcontractor for IP M/S benefits under CCOE and CCOG benefit packages.

Required Action: AH should align its IP RR time frame allowance to be consistent with OHP FFS, allowing IP retrospective authorization requests up to 90 days from the date of service. Exceptions should still apply as determined through medical necessity.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
Finding #2: For benefit packages CCOE and CCOG, AH's method to promote consistency of IP MH/SUD medical necessity determinations, conducting quarterly audits of authorization but with no testing standard applied, was not sufficiently structured as compared to IP M/S processes in that OHP FFS M/S operations included a formal IRR policy inclusive of an 80 percent standard for authorization reviews conducted at least annually. **Required Action:** AH should develop and align testing standards with OHP FFS's 80 percent testing standard for reviewing IP MH/SUD cases as a method to promote consistency of medical necessity determinations.			

Category II—Utilization Management Limits Applied to Outpatient Services

NQTL: UM limits including PA, CR, RR, and IRR

Benefit Package: CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG for adults and children

Classification: OP

Overview: UM is assigned to OP MH/SUD and M/S benefits to confirm coverage, meet federal requirements in providing benefits in the least restrictive environment, evaluate the safety of certain OP services, and prevent overutilization that has been identified by specific medical necessity criteria or in utilization reports. These rationalizations are identified as indicators 1, 2, and 3 as listed in comparability and stringency Standard #2 below, which cross-reference to indicators used by OHP FFS. HSAG analyzed NQTLs applied to OP benefits based on information provided related to all six comparability and stringency standards as listed below. The benefit packages were analyzed as follows:

- **Benefit packages A and B:** MH/SUD benefits in columns 1 (FFS/home- and community-based services [HCBS] 1915[c][i] MH /SUD) and column 3 (CCO MH/SUD) compared using indicators 1–4 to M/S benefits in columns 2 (FFS/HCBS 1915[c][k][j] M/S) and 4 (CCO M/S), respectively. These benefit packages include MH/SUD IP benefits managed by the CCO and OHA through its subcontractors, Comagine Health and KEPRO.
- **Benefit packages E and G** MH/SUD benefits in columns 1 (FFS/HCBS 1915[c][i] MH/SUD) and column 3 (CCO MH/SUD) compared using indicators 1, 2, and 4 to M/S benefits in columns 2 (FFS/HCBS 1915[c][k][j] M/S) and 5 (FFS M/S), respectively. These benefit packages include MH/SUD IP benefits managed by the CCO and OHP FFS through its subcontractors, Comagine Health and KEPRO.

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
1. To which benefit is the NQTL assigned?				
• (2) Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). • (2) OT, PT, ST for MH conditions are	The following services are managed by DHS: • (1) 1915(c) Comprehensive DD waiver.	• (2) Out-of-network (OON) MH/SUD benefits require PA. • CR:	• (2) PA: All OP services provided by OON providers.	The following services are managed by OHA: • (2, 3) Out of hospital births.

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
managed through RR; PA is not required.	• (1) 1915(c) Support Services DD waiver. • (1) 1915(c) Behavioral DD Model waiver. • (1) 1915(c) Aged & Physically Disabled waiver. • (1) 1915(c) Hospital Model waiver. • (1) 1915(c) Medically Involved Children's NF waiver. • (1) 1915(k) Community First Choice State Plan option. • (1) 1915(j): Self-directed personal assistance.	• (2,3) Youth day treatment. • (2) OT/PT/ST. • (2) ABA. • (2) MAT.	• (2) Follow-up visits by contracted specialists. • (2, 3), OP surgery and office procedures. • (2) Sleep studies. • (2) Genetic testing. • (2) Capsule endoscopy. • (2, 3) MRI/MRA, PET. • (2) DME. • (2) Outpatient observation over 48 hr. • (2, 3) Wound care • (2, 3) Hospice/Palliative care. • (2) OT/PT/ST. • (2) Chiropractic. • (2) Osteopathic Manipulation. • (2) Acupuncture. • (2) Home Health. • (2) Vision. • (2) Dietary services. (2) Outpatient infusion.	• (2) Home health services. • (2) OT, PT, ST for MH conditions are managed through RR; PA is not required. • (2, 3) Imaging.

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
2.Why is the NQTL assigned to these benefits?				
(2) HERC PL. (2) OAR 410-172-0650 for ABA services. (2) PA requests with insufficient documentation to demonstrate MNC or HERC PL guidelines are not being followed.	(1) The State requires PA of HCBS in order to meet federal requirements regarding PCSPs and ensure services are provided in accordance with a participant's PCSP and in the last restrictive setting.	• (2) Ensures treatment is medically necessary, in least restrictive setting, not-over-utilized and is treatment for a funded condition. • (3) Services are associated with increased health or safety risks. • (4) Preservation of limited resources.	• (2) Ensures treatment is medically necessary, in least restrictive setting, not-over-utilized and is treatment for a funded condition. • (3) Services are associated with increased health or safety risks. • (4) Preservation of limited resources.	(2) To prevent services being delivered in violation of relevant OARs, associated HERC PL and guidelines and federal regulations.
3. What evidence supports the rationale for the assignment?				
• (2) HERC PL • (2) OAR 410-172-0650 for ABA services. • (2) PA requests with insufficient documentation to demonstrate medical necessity is not being met or HERC PL guidelines are not being followed.	• (1)Federal requirements regarding PCSPs for 1915(c), 1915(k), and 1915(j) services (e.g., 42 CFR 441.301, 441.468, and 441.540) and the applicable approved 1915(c) waiver application/State plan amendment. • (1) Federal requirements	• (2, 3) OARs, ASAM, HERC PL and guidelines, federal guidelines. (2) Oregon Performance Plan (OPP) requires that BH services be provided in least restrictive setting possible. The OPP is a DOJ-negotiated Olmsted settlement. (2) Medical literature demonstrates high cost of unnecessary	• (2, 3) OARs, HERC PL and guidelines, federal guidelines. Services such as OP surgeries may pose an increased health and safety risk. • (2) 19% of requests are denied or modified, most often for services that are not funded for treatment, don't meet	(2) HERC PL and guidelines, and clinical practice guidelines. (2) PA requests with insufficient documentation to demonstrate medical necessity are not being met or HERC PL guidelines are not being followed. • (3) HERC Guidelines - Recommended limits

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	regarding 1915(c) and 1915(i) services require that HCBS are provided in the least restrictive setting possible.	medical care (i.e. 30% of medical costs). (Institute of Medicine Report, (2012). Also see Fisher, Elliott S., MD, MPH, Wennberg, David E., MD, MPH, Stukel, Therese A., PhD et al., The Implications of Regional Variations in Medicare Spending: Part 2. Health Outcomes and Satisfaction with Care, Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences, Dartmouth Medical School, VA Outcomes Group, White River Junction VT, Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Maine Medical Center, & Institute for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences, Toronto, Canada, Financial support was provided by grants from the Robert, Wood Johnson	HERC guidelines, or are not the least costly alternative that will meet the need. • (2) Cost and utilization reports and how frequently a service is denied. Over 60% of outpatient spending is in categories requiring PA. • (2) Medical literature demonstrates high cost of unnecessary medical care (i.e. 30%of medical costs). (Institute of Medicine Report, (2012). Also see Fisher, Elliott S., MD, MPH, Wennberg, David E., MD, MPH, Stukel, Therese A., PhD et al., The Implications of Regional Variations in Medicare Spending: Part 2. Health Outcomes and Satisfaction with Care, Center for the	on services for member safety.

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
		Foundation, the National Institutes of Health (Grant Number CA52192) and the National Institute of Aging (Grant Number 1PO1AG19783-01), 2002, pp 1-32. • (4) Frequency and numbers of providers who close practices to new referrals.	Evaluative Clinical Sciences, Dartmouth Medical School, VA Outcomes Group, White River Junction VT, Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation, Maine Medical Center, & Institute for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences, Toronto, Canada, Financial support was provided by grants from the Robert, Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Institutes of Health (Grant Number CA52192) and the National Institute of Aging (Grant Number 1PO1AG19783-01), 2002, pp 1-32. • (4) Frequency and numbers of providers who close practices to new referrals.	

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
4. What are the NQTL procedures?				
Timelines for authorizations: • Urgent requests are processed in three business days and immediate requests in one business day. Routine requests are processed in 14 days. • OT, PT, ST for MH conditions are managed through RR; PA is not required.	**Timelines for authorizations**: • A PCSP must be approved within 90 days from the date a completed application is submitted.	**Timelines for authorizations:** • Review completed within 14 days includes eligibility and benefit coverage, as well as review for medical appropriateness. • Stat/urgent requests processed in 24 hours or 72 hours if additional info is necessary. • PA processed within 5 business days, but immediate requests with 1 business day.	**Timelines for authorizations:** • Review completed within 14 days includes eligibility and benefit coverage, as well as review for medical appropriateness. Stat/urgent requests processed in 24 hours or 72 hours if additional info is necessary.	**Timelines for authorizations**: • Urgent requests are processed in three business days and immediate requests in one business day. Routine requests are processed in 14 days.
Documentation requirements: • Form is one cover page. • Require diagnostic and CPT code and rationale for medical necessity plus any additional supporting documentation.	**Documentation requirements**: • The PCSP is based on a functional needs assessment and other supporting documentation. It is developed by the individual, the individual's team, and	**Documentation requirements:** • PA: One page PA form and clinical notes supporting the need.	**Documentation requirements:** • PA: One page PA form with requesting and performing provider, diagnosis and CPT codes, and clinical notes supporting the need.	**Documentation requirements**: • A cover page form is required. In addition, diagnostic information, a CPT code(s), a rationale for medical necessity plus any additional supporting

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
• In addition, as part of the supporting documentation ABA must have an evaluation and referral for treatment from a licensed practitioner described in OAR 410-172-0760 (1)(a-d) and a treatment plan from a licensed health care professional described in 410-172-0650(B). • Documentation supporting medical necessity is required at the time of billing for OT, PT, ST services.	the individual's case manager.			documentation are required. • Documentation supporting medical necessity is required at the time of billing for OT, PT, ST services.
Method of document submission: • Paper (fax) or online PA/POC submitted prior to the delivery of services.	**Method of document submission**: • All 1915(c), 1915(k), and 1915(j) services must be included in a participant's PCSP and approved by a qualified case manager at the local case management entity (CME) prior to service delivery.	**Method of document submission:** • CR: telephonic reviews; fax supporting documentation may be used. • Secure email is also available.	**Method of document submission:** • Fax, email and phone.	**Method of document submission**: • Paper (fax) or online PA/POC submitted prior to the delivery of services.

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	• Information is obtained during a face-to-face meeting, often at the individual's location.			
Qualifications of reviewers: • For ABA services, physicians review services. • For OT, PT, ST services, nurses may authorize and deny services. • Professional peers deny for other OP services.	**Qualifications of reviewers:** • A case manager must have at least: – A bachelor's degree (BA) in behavioral science, social science, or a closely related field; or – A BA in any field AND one year of human services related experience; or – An associate's degree (AA) in a behavioral science, social science, or a closely related field AND two years human services related experience; or	**Qualifications of reviewers:** • QMHPs (i.e., physician, nurse practitioner, substance abuse certification candidate) review, authorize, and deny services. The CCO plans to ensure only professional peers make denial determinations.	**Qualifications of reviewers:** • Trained, unlicensed reviewers or nurses may authorize services meeting guidelines or deny services for administrative reasons (patient is not eligible on the date of service.) • Physicians review is required for all denials based on treatments not funded, not meeting guidelines, or not medically appropriate.	**Qualifications of reviewers:** • Nurses may authorize and deny services.

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
	Three years of human services related experience.			
Criteria: • Authorizations are based on applicable HERC guidelines, Oregon Statute, Oregon Administrative rules, federal regulations, and evidence-based guidelines from private and professional associations such as the American Psychiatric Association, where no State or federal guidelines exist.	**Criteria**: • Qualified case managers approve or deny services in the PCSP consistent with waiver/state plan and OAR requirements. • Once a PCSP is approved, itis entered into the payment management system as authorization by the CME staff.	**Criteria:** • Authorizations are based on ASAM criteria, mental health/addictions/medical literature, SAMHSA recommendations; HERC PL and guideline notes	**Criteria:** • Authorizations are based on HERC PL and guideline notes and Oregon statute.	**Criteria:** • Authorizations are based on applicable HERC PL and guidelines, Oregon Revised Statute, OAR, federal regulations, and evidence-based guidelines from private and professional associations such as the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons where no State or federal guidelines exist.
Reconsideration/RR: • A provider may request review of a denial decision, which occurs in weekly MMC meetings or Comagine's own	**Reconsideration/RR:** • (c) NA	**Reconsideration/RR:** • Retro requests are generally limited to 30 days after the date of service, 45 days in practice, with exceptions allowed.	**Reconsideration/RR:** • Retro requests are generally limited to 30 days after the date of service, 45 days in practice, with exceptions allowed.	**Reconsideration/RR:** • A review of a denial decision can be requested and is reviewed in weekly MMC meetings. • RR authorization requests can be made

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
comparable MMC meeting. • RR authorization requests can be made within 90 days of the date of service or after the 90 days based on provider demonstration of a specific reason why authorization could not have been obtained within the 90 days. • OT, PT, ST are reviewed after the initial service prior to payment. Additionally, denial decisions can be requested and reviewed at weekly MMC meetings.				within 90 days of the date of service or after the 90 days based on provider demonstration of a specific reason why authorization could not have been obtained within the 90 days. • OT, PT, ST are reviewed after the initial service prior to payment. Additionally, denial decisions can be requested and reviewed at weekly MCM meetings.
Consequences for failure to authorize: • Failure to obtain authorization may result in non-payment.	**Consequences for failure to authorize:** • Failure to obtain authorization may result in non-payment.	**Consequences for failure to authorize:** • Failure to obtain PA results in non-payment.	**Consequences for failure to authorize:** • Failure to obtain PA results in • non-payment.	**Consequences for failure to authorize:** • Failure to obtain authorization may result in non-payment.

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
Appeals: • Notice and fair hearing rights apply.	**Appeals**: • Notice and fair hearing rights apply.	**Appeals:** • Notice and fair hearing rights apply.	**Appeals:** • Notice and fair hearing rights apply.	**Appeals**: • Notice and fair hearing rights apply.
5. How frequently or strictly is the NQTL applied?				
Frequency of review: • PA is granted for different LOS depending on the service and can be adjusted. PAs for extensive services usually range from 6 months to 1 year. • ABA is usually multiple service codes approved for 6 months. • Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the MMC, which is led by the HSD medical director.	**Frequency of review:** • PCSPs are reviewed and revised as needed, but at least every 12 months.	**Frequency of review:** • PA: MH authorizations are typically for 3- 6 months but may be as long as 12 months (e.g., psychiatric medication management). Varies by service type and clinical circumstances. • Youth day treatment is reviewed monthly.	**Frequency of review:** • PA: Varies by service type and clinical circumstances. • Physician office visits: 1 visit to multiple visits over 12 mo. depending on condition and treatment plan. • Surgery/procedures: 1 service including global period • DME: 1-12 mo depending on HERC guidelines and Oregon statute • PT/OT/ST: 8-12 visits depending on treatment plan • Diagnostics: usually 1	**Frequency of review**: • PA is granted for different authorization periods depending on the service and can be adjusted. PAs for extensive services usually range from 6 months to 1 year.
Reconsideration/RR: A provider may request review of a denial decision, which	**Reconsideration/RR:** NA	**RR conditions and timelines:** • Retro requests are generally limited to 30	**RR conditions and timelines** • Retro requests are generally limited to 30	**Reconsideration/RR:** • A review of a denial decision can be requested and is

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
occurs in weekly MMC meetings or Comagine's own comparable MMC meeting. RR authorization requests can be made within 90 days of the date of service or after the 90 days based on provider demonstration of a specific reason why authorization could not have been obtained within the 90 days. OT, PT, ST are reviewed after the initial service prior to payment. Additionally, denial decisions can be requested and reviewed at weekly MMC meetings.		days after the date of service, 45 days in practice, with exceptions allowed.	days after the date of service, 45 days in practice, with exceptions allowed.	reviewed in weekly MMC meetings. • RR authorization requests can be made within 90 days of the date of service or after the 90 days based on provider demonstration of a specific reason why authorization could not have been obtained within the 90 days. • OT, PT, ST are reviewed after the initial service prior to payment. Additionally, denial decisions can be requested and reviewed at weekly MCM meetings.
Methods to promote consistent application of criteria: • For ABA, a sample of cases are reviewed for ability to address assessed member	**Methods to promote consistent application of criteria:** • DHS Quality Assurance Review teams review a representative sample	**Methods to promote consistent application of criteria:** • MNC application is overseen via case	**Methods to promote consistent application of criteria:** • MNC application is overseen via case	**Methods to promote consistent application of criteria**: • Nurses are trained on the application of the HERC guidelines, which is spot checked

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
needs and whether OARs were met.	of PCSPs as part of quality assurance and case review activities to assure that PCSPs meet program standards. Additionally, OHA staff review a percentage of files to assure quality and compliance.	conference and supervision.	conference and supervision.	through ongoing supervision.
6. What standard supports the frequency or rigor with which the NQTL is applied?				
Evidence for UM frequency: • HERC guidelines (for ABA and OT, PT, ST) of which there are more M/S than MH/SUD because 1) there are more technological procedures (e.g., surgery, devices, procedures and diagnostic tests); 2) the literature is more robust. • The amount of time a PA covers for services is limited by OAR	**Evidence for UM frequency**: • Federal requirements regarding PCSPs and 1915(c), 1915(k), and 1915(j) services (e.g., 42 CFR 441.301, 441.468, and 441.540) and the applicable approved 1915(c) waiver application/State plan amendment.	**Evidence for UM frequency:** • PA and CR: Frequency of CR based on provider's determination of needed number of sessions/expected LOS, improvement timelines, typical courses of care for the requested service and scarcity of resources. • ASAM criteria, mental health/addictions/ medical literature, SAMHSA recommendations;	**Evidence for UM frequency:** • PA: Frequency of PA requirements based on expected LOS, improvement timelines and scarcity of resources. • HERC PL and guidelines • Varies by service type and clinical circumstances. • Evidence includes utilization reports and guidelines from professional organizations.	**Evidence for UM frequency**: • HERC guidelines of which there are more M/S than MH/SUD because 1) there are more technological procedures (e.g., surgery, devices, procedures and diagnostic tests); and 2) the literature is more robust. • The amount of time a PA covers for services is limited by OAR 410-120-1320(7) which states that PAs

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
410-120-1320(7) which states that PAs can be approved and renewed up to one year at a time. • Whenever possible, practice guidelines from clinical professional organizations such as the American Medical Association or the American Psychiatric Association, are used to establish PA frequency.		HERC PL and guidelines.		can be approved and renewed up to one year at a time.
Data reviewed to determine UM application: • A physician-led group of clinical professionals conduct an annual review to determine which services receive or retain a PA; items reviewed include: – Utilization. – Approval/denial rates.	**Data reviewed to determine UM application:** • N/A	**Data reviewed to determine UM application:** • Denial/Appeal rates • Number of authorizations required • Overall utilization patterns and availability of resources • IRR standard: • N/A	**Data reviewed to determine UM application:** • Denial/Appeal rates • Number of authorizations submitted per category • Overall utilization patterns and availability of resources • IRR standard: • N/A	**Data reviewed to determine UM application:** A physician-led group of clinical professionals conduct an annual review to determine which services receive or retain a PA; items reviewed include: – Utilization. – Approval/denial rates.

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
– Documentation/justification of services. – Cost data.				– Documentation/justification of services. – Cost data.

Analysis

UM was applied to FFS MH/SUD and M/S HCBS benefits, and CCO MH/SUD and FFS M/S OP benefits listed in comparability and stringency Standard #1. For HCBS, MH/SUD benefits were administered by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and OHA's subcontractor, Comagine Health, while HCBS M/S benefits were administered by DHS. Pursuant to the 2020 CCO 2.0 Health Care Services Contract, the CCO did not require PA for MH/SUD services with the exception of more intensive care benefits such as ABA and psychiatric day treatment.

HSAG's analysis of AH's PA data for IP and OP benefits did not reveal any concerns related to MHP. Of the total 7,866 IP and OP PA requests reported, 26.94 percent were denied. Of the 374 IP MH/SUD PA requests, 12.03 percent were denied, with only one of those denials resulting in an appeal; no overturns were reported. All of the MH/SUD denials were attributed to OP authorization requests.

Comparability

UM of MH/SUD and M/S HCBS benefits was required to meet federal HCBS requirements regarding PCSPs, providing benefits in the least restrictive environment, and applicable waiver applications/State plan amendments. Evidence for the application of UM to these benefits included federal requirements regarding PCSPs for 1915(c), 1915(i), 1915(k), and 1915(j) services and applicable approved waiver applications/State plan amendments. Non-HCBS CCO MH/SUD and M/S OP services was assigned UM to confirm coverage relative to the HERC PL and guidelines and federal guidelines. Non-HCBS MH/SUD services were also reviewed to ensure services were medically necessary relative to clinical practice guidelines and offered in the least restrictive environment that is safe, as required by the OPP Olmstead settlement for MH/SUD. A subset of CCO M/S OP services were also assigned UM to assure the individual's safety. Evidence for safety issues included HERC guidelines and MCG. HSAG determined the rationale and evidence to be comparable. AH and OHP FFS made authorization decisions within 24 hours for emergencies, 72 hours for urgent requests, and 14 days for standard requests. Providers were encouraged to submit requests for authorization sufficiently in advance to be consistent with OAR time frames. Most CCO documentation requirements for MH/SUD included an admission note and records submitted via telephone, fax, or electronically. CCO M/S was electronically notified of an admission and care was reviewed via electronic health record (EHR). Alternatively, documentation could be submitted via fax. PCSPs for both M/S and MH/SUD must be developed within 90 days.

Stringency

The PCSP for both MH/SUD and M/S was based on an assessment and other relevant supporting documentation. It was developed by the individual, the individual's team, and the individual's case manager. Qualified individuals conducted UM applying OARs, HERC, MCG,

FFS HCBS MH/SUD	FFS HCBS/MS	CCO MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
national guidelines, and ASAM for CCO SUD. MH/SUD and M/S DHS reviewers were required to have a BA in a related field; a BA in any field plus one year of experience; an AA with two years' experience; or three years' experience. The CCO and Comagine required all MH/SUD and M/S denials to be made by professional peers; however, nurses could deny M/S benefits managed by OHP FFS. HSAG determined this difference to be an issue of quality rather than a parity concern. HSAG determined that the MH/SUD PA review time frames, documentation requirements, and qualification of reviewers were comparable to those applied to M/S benefits. Both the CCO and OHA allowed RR for MH/SUD and M/S when providers failed to obtain authorization. Although exceptions to these time frames were allowed by both the CCO and OHA, AH's 30-day RR time frame allowance for IP MH/SUD PAs was more stringent than OHP FFS's RR time frame of 90 days for M/S RR under benefit packages CCOE and CCOG. MH/SUD and M/S denial decisions could be appealed through appeals and/or State fair hearing processes. Failure to obtain authorization could result in noncoverage. Regarding IRR, the CCO was conducting quarterly reviews of monthly authorization reports using an EZ-CAP tool but had no testing standard, whereas OHP FFS had a formal IRR policy inclusive of an 80 percent standard for authorization reviews conducted at least annually. HSAG determined the inconsistency to be a parity concern across CCOE and CCOG benefit packages.				
Outcome				
HSAG's analysis determined that the rationale, documentation requirements, processes, and frequency of UM applied to OP MH/SUD benefits were comparable to those applied to OP M/S benefits; however, it was determined that the rigor with which UM was applied to MH/SUD benefits was more stringent in relation to RR and IRR for CCOE and CCOG benefit packages as detailed in the findings below. **Finding #3:** For benefit packages CCOE and CCOG, AH's 30-day RR time frame allowance for OP MH/SUD PAs was more stringent than the 90-day time frame allowed by OHP FFS and its subcontractor for OP M/S benefits under CCOE and CCOG benefit packages. **Required Action:** AH should align its OP RR time frame allowance to be consistent with OHP FFS, allowing OP retrospective authorization requests up to 90 days from the date of service. Exceptions should still apply as determined through medical necessity. **Finding #4:** For benefit packages CCOE and CCOG, AH's method to promote consistency of OP MH/SUD medical necessity determinations, conducting quarterly audits of authorization but with no testing standard applied, was not sufficiently structured as compared to OP M/S processes in that OHP FFS M/S operations included a formal IRR policy inclusive of an 80 percent standard for authorization reviews conducted at least annually. **Required Action:** AH should develop and align testing standards with OHP FFS's 80 percent testing standard for reviewing OP MH/SUD cases as a method to promote consistency of medical necessity determinations.				

Category III—Prior Authorization for Prescription Drug Limits

NQTL: PA for Prescription Drugs

Benefit Package: CCOA and CCOB for adults and children

Classification: Prescription Drugs

Overview: PA is required for certain MH/SUD and M/S prescription drugs, and OHA requires PA of certain MH carve-out drugs. HSAG reviewed the reasons why CCOs and OHP FFS apply PA criteria to certain MH/SUD and M/S prescription drugs, the evidence used to establish PA criteria, and the processes used by the CCOs and OHP FFS to develop and apply PA criteria. HSAG analyzed AH's application of PA for prescription drug benefits based on comparability and stringency standard information provided below.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH Carve Out	CCO M/S
1. To which benefit is the NQTL assigned?		
• Prior authorization must be obtained for medications not on formulary and exceeding formulary limitations in usual quantity or price threshold. • A, F, P, S drug groups	• A and F drug groups • MH carve out drugs do not have an enforceable preferred drug list. While certain higher cost-effect agents are listed as "preferred," this is not enforced by PA.	• Prior authorization must be obtained for medications not on formulary and exceeding formulary limitations in usual quantity or price threshold. • A, F, P, S drug groups
2. Why is the NQTL assigned to these benefits?		
• These services are selected for PA because they represent a significant proportion of costs and have the potential to be used for conditions not funded for treatment or for which specific criteria must be met. • Authorization review also allows for care coordination and optimization of	• To promote appropriate and safe treatment of funded conditions.	• These services are selected for PA because they represent a significant proportion of costs and have the potential to be used for conditions not funded for treatment or for which specific criteria must be met. • Authorization review also allows for care coordination and optimization of the

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH Carve Out	CCO M/S
the medications to improve outcomes as well as controlling unnecessary costs.		medications to improve outcomes as well as controlling unnecessary costs.
3. What evidence supports the rationale for the assignment?		
• The Prioritized List. • Cost and utilization trends, medical literature supporting cost-effective and high value care, and local needs and utilization patterns. • Additional evidence is obtained from primary medical literature, FDA indications, and the Oregon State DURM group and State P&T committee reviews, together with financial data from the CCO's pharmacy benefits manager (PBM).	• FDA prescribing guidelines, medical evidence, best practices, professional guidelines, and P&T Committee review and recommendations. • Federal and state regulations/OAR and the Prioritized List.	• The Prioritized List. • Cost and utilization trends, medical literature supporting cost-effective and high value care, and local needs and utilization patterns. • Additional evidence is obtained from primary medical literature, FDA indications, and the Oregon State DURM group and state P&T committee reviews, together with financial data from the CCO's PBM.
4. What are the NQTL procedures?		
• Requests are made via fax with a one page form indicating patient information, diagnosis, medication, dose and duration. PA requests can be made without the form as long as all necessary information is present. • Requests should be accompanied by pertinent clinical information, most often the most recent chart note. • If the information submitted is not adequate to reach a decision, additional information is requested via fax back to the provider, or phone call.	• PA requests are typically faxed to the Pharmacy Call Center, but requests can also be submitted through the online portal, by phone, or by mail. • The standard PA form is one page long, except for nutritional supplement requests. Most PA criteria require clinical documentation such as chart notes. • All PA requests are responded to within 24 hours.	• Requests are made via fax with a one page form indicating patient information, diagnosis, medication, dose and duration. PA requests can be made without the form as long as all necessary information is present. • Requests should be accompanied by pertinent clinical information, most often the most recent chart note. • If the information submitted is not adequate to reach a decision, additional information is requested via fax back to the provider, or phone call.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH Carve Out	CCO M/S
• All PA requests are responded to within 24 hours. • The PA criteria are developed by pharmacists in consultation with the P&T Committee. • Medications requiring authorization are not paid if authorization is not approved.	• The PA criteria are developed by pharmacists in consultation with the P&T Committee. • Failure to obtain PA in combination with an absence of medical necessity results in no provider reimbursement. • Notice of Benefit Determination sent to both Recipient and Provider. - Denials letters include information on required criteria, denial reasons, and how the provider can appeal and member hearing rights.	• All PA requests are responded to within 24 hours. • The PA criteria are developed by pharmacists in consultation with the P&T Committee. • Medications requiring authorization are not paid if authorization is not approved.
5. How frequently or strictly is the NQTL applied?		
• Medications for chronic conditions are approved for 3 to 12 months depending on the frequency of monitoring, cost, and risk of the medication. • Medications for acute conditions are approved for one course of treatment, whatever length of treatment is indicated in the medical literature. • Approximately 31% of MH/SUD drugs are subject to PA criteria for clinical reasons. • Retroactive authorizations can be obtained in special circumstances including recent insurance change for the member and exceptions to criteria can be made when clinically appropriate.	• The State approves PAs for up to 12 months, depending on medical appropriateness and safety, as recommended by the P&T Committee. • Approximately 19% of MH/SUD drugs are subject to PA criteria for clinical reasons. • The State allows providers to submit additional information for reconsideration of a denial. • Providers can appeal denials on behalf of a member, and members have fair hearing rights. • There were 10 client fair hearing requests for denied MH/SUD medications. None were reversed after	• Medications for chronic conditions are approved for 3 to 12 months depending on the frequency of monitoring, cost, and risk of the medication. • Medications for acute conditions are approved for one course of treatment, whatever length of treatment is indicated in the medical literature. • Approximately 18% of M/S drugs are subject to PA criteria for clinical reasons. • Retroactive authorizations can be obtained in special circumstances including recent insurance change for the member and exceptions to criteria can be made when clinically appropriate.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH Carve Out	CCO M/S
• Providers can appeal denials on behalf of a member, and members have appeal and fair hearing rights. • The CCO assesses stringency through review of the percent of pharmacy claims requiring PA, the number of PA requests, PA denial/approval rates, complaints and appeals related to pharmacy, and feedback from the CCO's P&T Committee and other providers treating members. • PA requirements are reviewed yearly to ensure that the medications requiring authorization have one or more of the following characteristics: high cost, high risk, low value, likely to be used for conditions not funded on the Prioritized List, or medications without good evidence of effectiveness.	agency reconsideration or, and none were reversed by hearing. • The State assesses stringency through review of PA denial/approval and appeal rates; number of drugs requiring PA; number of PA requests; and pharmacy utilization data/reports. PA criteria are reviewed as needed due to clinical developments, literature, studies, and FDA medication approvals.	• Providers can appeal denials on behalf of a member, and members have appeal and fair hearing rights. • The CCO assesses stringency through review of the percent of pharmacy claims requiring PA, the number of PA requests, PA denial/approval rates, complaints and appeals related to pharmacy, and feedback from the CCO's P&T Committee and other providers treating members. • PA requirements are reviewed yearly to ensure that the medications requiring authorization have one or more of the following characteristics: high cost, high risk, low value, likely to be used for conditions not funded on the Prioritized List, or medications without good evidence of effectiveness.
6. What standard supports the frequency or rigor with which the NQTL is applied?		
• The Prioritized List. • Cost and utilization trends, medical literature supporting cost-effective and high value care, and local needs and utilization patterns. • Additional evidence is obtained from the primary medical literature, FDA indications, and the Oregon State DURM group and state P&T committee reviews, together with financial data from the CCO's PBM.	• FDA prescribing guidelines, medical evidence, best practices, professional guidelines, and P&T Committee review and recommendations. • Federal and state regulations/OAR and the Prioritized List.	• The Prioritized List. • Cost and utilization trends, medical literature supporting cost-effective and high value care, and local needs and utilization patterns. • Additional evidence is obtained from the primary medical literature, FDA indications, and the Oregon State DURM group and state P&T committee reviews, together with financial data from the CCO's PBM.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH Carve Out	CCO M/S
Analysis		
AH applied PA criteria to MH/SUD and M/S prescription drug benefits and applied PA to certain MH/SUD and M/S drugs to promote appropriate and safe treatment, and cost-effective use of prescription drugs. Since 2018, the CCO conducted an evaluation of its formulary and made changes that either added prescription drugs, added and removed PA criteria to prescription drugs, and adjusted criteria for prescription drugs in the formulary. PA was consistent across all benefit packages (CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG). AH reported a 51.02 percent denial rate for both MH/SUD and M/S prescription drug authorization requests from January 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020. During that time period, 1,280 denials were appealed, with only two denials resulting in an overturned decision. The main denial reason applied to prescription drug PA requests was "insufficient information." While HSAG's analysis of AH's counts for prescription drug PA requests did not reveal any concerns related to parity, HSAG recommends that the CCO review its processes to determine if there are opportunities for improvement considering requests denied for "insufficient information." Ensuring providers are aware of and easily able to navigate the PA process is crucial in being able to provide necessary prescription drugs to members. **Comparability** PA was applied to certain MH FFS carve-out drugs to promote appropriate and safe treatment. Evidence used by the CCO and OHA to determine which MH/SUD and M/S drugs are subject to PA included Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prescribing guidelines, medical evidence, best practices, professional guidelines, and Pharmacy and Therapeutic (P&T) Committee review and recommendations. The PA criteria for both MH/SUD and M/S drugs were developed by pharmacists in consultation with the P&T Committee. PA requests for both MH/SUD and M/S drugs could be submitted by fax, phone, or online. **Stringency** For both MH/SUD and M/S drugs, most PA criteria required clinical documentation such as chart notes. Failure to obtain PA for MH/SUD and M/S drugs subject to PA in combination with an absence of medical necessity resulted in no reimbursement for the drug. Decisions were responded to within 24 hours, with decisions being made within 72 hours. For both MH/SUD and M/S drugs, the length of authorizations was dependent on medical appropriateness and safety, as recommended by the P&T Committee, based on clinical evidence such as FDA prescribing guidelines, best practices, and clinical practice guidelines. Both the CCO and OHA allowed exceptions to the formulary and preferred drug list based on medical necessity. For carve-out drugs covered by OHA, the CCO stated that it works with pharmacies and providers to redirect PA requests and claims to OHA.		
Outcome		
HSAG determined the processes, strategies, and evidentiary standards for PA of MH/SUD prescription drugs to be comparable and no more stringently applied, in writing and in operation, to M/S prescription drugs.		

Category IV—Provider Admission—Closed Network

NQTL: Provider Admission

Benefit Package: CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG for adults and children

Classification: IP and OP

Overview: CCOs require providers of MH/SUD and M/S services to successfully meet credentialing and recredentialing requirements in order to be admitted to and continue to participate in the CCO's network. HSAG analyzed AH's provider admission processes based on comparability and stringency standard information related to network closures provided below. Since Medicaid provider enrollment for OHP FFS did not include a provider credentialing component, HSAG deemed provider admission processes not applicable for OHP FFS and did not include that classification in the provider admission analysis.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
1. To which benefit is the NQTL assigned?			
• CCO does not close its network for new MH/SUD providers of inpatient services. • CCO does not close its network for new MH/SUD providers of outpatient services.	• The State does not restrict new providers of inpatient or outpatient MH/SUD services from enrollment.	• CCO does not close its network for new MH/SUD providers of inpatient services. • CCO does not close its network for new MH/SUD providers of outpatient services.	• The State does not restrict new providers of inpatient or outpatient MH/SUD services from enrollment.
2. Why is the NQTL assigned to these benefits?			
• N/A	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
3. What evidence supports the rationale for the assignment?			
• N/A	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
4. What are the NQTL procedures?			
• N/A	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
5. How frequently or strictly is the NQTL applied?			
• N/A	• N/A	• N/A	• N/A
6. What standard supports the frequency or rigor with which the NQTL is applied?			
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Analysis			
AH did not close its network to providers of MH/SUD and M/S services. Developing a network based on network adequacy and sufficiency standards was supported by federal regulation, including the ability of a managed care organization (MCO) (i.e., CCO) to limit contracting beyond the needs of its members to maintain quality and control costs (42 CFR §438.12). OAR 410-141-0220 also required the CCO to meet network sufficiency standards, which impacts the application of this NQTL category. In addition, provider network admission limits did not apply to FFS benefits and the application of provider network admission NQTLs for benefits delivered under managed care as supported by 42 CFR §438.206 and §438.12. Accordingly, parity was not analyzed. **Comparability** N/A **Stringency** N/A			
Outcome			
Because AH did not close its network to either MH/SUD or M/S providers, HSAG determined that the CCO's provider admission/network closure processes for MH/SUD providers were comparable to and no more stringently applied to M/S providers across all benefit packages.			

Category V—Provider Admission—Network Credentialing

NQTL: Provider Admission

Benefit Package: CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG for adults and children

Classification: IP and OP

Overview: CCOs require providers of MH/SUD and M/S services to successfully meet credentialing and recredentialing requirements in order to be admitted to and continue to participate in the CCO's network. HSAG analyzed AH's provider admission processes based on comparability and stringency standard information related to credentialing and recredentialing provided below. Since Medicaid provider enrollment for OHP FFS did not include a provider credentialing component, HSAG deemed provider admission processes not applicable for OHP FFS and did not include that classification in the provider admission analysis.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
1. To which benefit is the NQTL assigned?			
• CCO requires all participating providers to meet credentialing and re-credentialing requirements. • CCO does not apply provider requirements in addition to State licensing.	• All FFS providers must be enrolled as a provider with Oregon Medicaid. • The State does not apply provider requirements in addition to State licensing.	• CCO requires all participating providers to meet credentialing and re-credentialing requirements. • N/A	• All FFS providers must be enrolled as a provider with Oregon Medicaid. • The State does not apply provider requirements in addition to State licensing
2. Why is the NQTL assigned to these benefits?			
• CCO applies credentialing and re-credentialing requirements to: – Meet State and Federal requirements	• Provider enrollment is required by State law and Federal regulations. The State also specifies requirements for provider enrollment in order to ensure beneficiary	• CCO applies credentialing and re-credentialing requirements to: – Meet State and Federal requirements	• Provider enrollment is required by State law and Federal regulations. The State also specifies requirements for provider enrollment in order to ensure beneficiary

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
– Ensure capabilities of provider to deliver high quality of care – Ensure provider meets minimum competency standards	health and safety and to reduce Medicaid provider fraud, waste, and abuse.	– Ensure capabilities of provider to deliver high quality of care – Ensure provider meets minimum competency standards	health and safety and to reduce Medicaid provider fraud, waste, and abuse.
3. What evidence supports the rationale for the assignment?			
• Credentialing/re-cred requirements are supported by the following evidence: – State law and Federal regulations, including 42 CFR 438.214. – State contract requirement.	• Provider enrollment is required by State law and Federal regulations, including 42 CFR Part 455, Subpart E-Provider Screening and Enrollment.	• Credentialing/re-cred requirements are supported by the following evidence: – State law and Federal regulations, including 42 CFR 438.214. – State contract requirement. – Accreditation guidelines (NCQA).	• Provider enrollment is required by State law and Federal regulations, including 42 CFR Part 455, Subpart E-Provider Screening and Enrollment.
4. What are the NQTL procedures?			
• All providers must meet credentialing and re-credentialing requirements. • MH Providers must complete and Oregon Provider Credentialing Application • (OPCA) or a 6 page credentialing packet and include CV, proof of insurance, license, professional references and fee schedule (although fee	• All providers are eligible to enroll as a provider and receive reimbursement provided they meet all relevant Federal and State licensing and other rules and are not on an exclusionary list. Providers must complete forms and documentation required for their provider type. This includes information demonstrating	• All providers must meet credentialing and re-credentialing requirements. • Providers must complete and provide OPCA; 20 pages for initial credentialing. • Supporting documentation, • e. g., peer references, work history, malpractice claims history may be faxed, emailed, or mailed.	• All providers are eligible to enroll as a provider and receive reimbursement provided they meet all relevant Federal and State licensing and other rules and are not on an exclusionary list. Providers must complete forms and documentation required for their provider type. This includes information demonstrating

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
schedule does not factor into credentialing decision). • Providers may submit supporting documentation by fax, secure email or mail. • CCO's credentialing process involves review/verification of information on application, verification of license in good standing, verification of liability insurance within required amounts, verification that provider is not on excluded provider list, and verification of approval by Health systems division (for Certificate of Approval organizations). Review EBPs being used in practice. Ensure provider has NPI number and gains DMAP provider number. • CCO's credentialing process averages 2 weeks. • CCO's human resources staff are responsible for reviewing required information and making provider credentialing decisions. • CCO performs re-credentialing every 2 years. Excluded	the provider meets provider enrollment requirements such as NPI, tax ID, disclosures, and licensure/certification. The provider enrollment forms vary from 1 to 19 pages, depending on the provider type. Supporting documentation includes the provider's IRS letter, licensure, SSN number, and/or Medicare enrollment as applicable to the provider type. The enrollment forms and documentation can be faxed in or completed and submitted electronically to the State's provider enrollment unit. The State's provider enrollment process includes checking the forms for completeness, running the provider name against exclusion databases, and verifying any licenses, certifications or equivalents. The State's enrollment process averages 7 to 14 days. State staff in the provider enrollment unit are responsible for reviewing information and making	• CCO's credentialing process involves review of the OPCA, primary source verification of training, licensure, adequate insurance. Verification of plan for coverage 24/7, call group. Review of National Practitioner Data Bank, OIG, Medicaid and Medicare exclusions, attestations, work history and peer references. Clean files may be approved by Medical Director review; others are reviewed by the Credentialing Committee. All are presented to the Credentialing Committee. • CCO's credentialing process averages 51 days. • CCO's Medical Director and Credentialing Committee are responsible for reviewing required information and making provider credentialing decisions. • CCO performs re-credentialing every two years. • Providers who do not meet credentialing/re-credentialing requirements are excluded	the provider meets provider enrollment requirements such as NPI, tax ID, disclosures, and licensure/certification. The provider enrollment forms vary from 1 to 19 pages, depending on the provider type. Supporting documentation includes the provider's IRS letter, licensure, SSN number, and/or Medicare enrollment as applicable to the provider type. The enrollment forms and documentation can be faxed in or completed and submitted electronically to the State's provider enrollment unit. The State's provider enrollment process includes checking the forms for completeness, running the provider name against exclusion databases, and verifying any licenses, certifications or equivalents. The State's enrollment process averages 7 to 14 days. State staff in the provider enrollment unit are responsible for reviewing

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
provider checks are completed monthly. • Providers who do not meet credentialing/re-credentialing requirements are not eligible for reimbursement as an in-network provider. • Providers who are adversely affected by credentialing or re-credentialing decisions may challenge the decision by appealing to the Clinical Management Group	provider enrollment decisions.	from the network as an in-network provider. • Providers who are adversely affected by credentialing or re-credentialing decisions may challenge the decision by appealing to the credentialing committee.	information and making provider enrollment decisions
5. How frequently or strictly is the NQTL applied?			
• All providers/provider types must be credentialed. There are no exceptions to meeting these requirements. No providers were denied admission or terminated from the network in the last contract year as a result of credentialing and re-credentialing.	• All providers/provider types are subject to enrollment/re-enrollment requirements. • There are no exceptions to meeting provider enrollment/re-enrollment requirements.	• All contracted • providers/provider types must be credentialed • There are no exceptions to meeting these requirements. • Requirement to conduct credentialing for all new providers is established by State law and Federal regulations. • The frequency with which CCO performs re-credentialing is based upon: – State law and Federal regulations.	• All providers/provider types are subject to enrollment/re-enrollment requirements. • There are no exceptions to meeting provider enrollment/re-enrollment requirements.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
		– State contract requirements. – Monitoring of provider performance including member complaints. – National accreditation standards (NCQA). • CCO monitors the following data/information to determine how strictly to apply credentialing/ re-credentialing criteria: –Denial/termination rates for providers as a result of credentialing/ re-credentialing reviews. – Provider appeals/disputes. – Network adequacy data, such as access to care, provider specialties.	
6. What standard supports the frequency or rigor with which the NQTL is applied?			
• Requirement to conduct credentialing for all new providers is established by State law and Federal regulations. • The frequency with which CCO performs re-credentialing is based upon:	• Provider enrollment is required by State law and Federal regulations, including 42 CFR Part 455, Subpart E - Provider Screening and Enrollment. The frequency with which the State re-enrolls providers is based on	• Requirement to conduct credentialing for all new providers is established by State law and Federal regulations. The frequency with which CCO performs re-credentialing is based upon: – State law and Federal regulations.	• Provider enrollment is required by State law and Federal regulations, including 42 CFR Part 455, Subpart E - Provider Screening and Enrollment. The frequency with which the State re-enrolls providers is based on

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
– State law and Federal regulations. – State CCO contract requirements and State IGA contracts. – Monitoring of provider performance, including member complaints. • CO monitors the following data/information to determine how strictly to apply credentialing/ re-credentialing criteria: – Denial/termination rates for providers as a result of credentialing/ re-credentialing reviews. – Provider appeals/disputes. – Network adequacy data, such as access to care, provider specialties.	State law and Federal regulations.	– State contract requirements. – Monitoring of provider performance including member complaints. – National accreditation standards (NCQA). • CCO monitors the following data/information to determine how strictly to apply credentialing/ re-credentialing criteria: – Denial/termination rates for providers as a result of credentialing/ re-credentialing reviews. – Provider appeals/disputes. – Network adequacy data, such as access to care, provider specialties.	State law and Federal regulations.
Analysis			
All IP and OP providers of MH/SUD and M/S services were subject to CCO credentialing and recredentialing requirements. AH conducted credentialing and recredentialing for both providers of MH/SUD and M/S services to meet State and federal requirements, ensure providers are capable of delivering high-quality care, and ensure providers meet minimum competency standards. In addition, the CCO was using national accreditation guidelines (NCQA) to support the credentialing and recredentialing strategy for M/S providers. The CCO's processes were the same across all benefit packages (CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG). AH reported it had 435 MH/SUD and M/S providers credentialed in its network during the reporting period. Of the 51 providers seeking credentialing with the CCO, none were denied credentialing. HSAG's analysis of AH's provider credentialing data did not reveal any parity concerns due to no denials reported for either MH/SUD or M/S providers seeking credentialing during the reporting period.			

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
Comparability AH required providers of MH/SUD and M/S services to successfully meet credentialing and recredentialing requirements in order to be admitted to and continue to participate in the CCO's network. Providers were required to complete and submit a credentialing application and provide supporting documentation as part of the credentialing process. The type and extent of documentation required was determined by HSAG to be comparable. Both MH/SUD and M/S providers had several methods of submitting their application and supporting documentation, including by fax, by mail, or electronically. Nonlicensed MH care providers (e.g., qualified mental health providers/assistants and traditional health care works) were vetted similarly, with verifications completed according to qualifications and certifications related to specific provider type. The CCO's credentialing process for MH/SUD providers included the primary source verification of licensing, board certification, Medicare Excluded Providers (Office of Inspector General), Medicare sanction (Excluded Parties List System/System for Award Management), Medicare opt-out (if applicable), and a National Practitioner Database query match to look for unexplained gaps in work history greater than six months. The process for M/S providers involved a similar review of each application to determine whether standards are met. Letters documenting the credentialing decision would be sent to the provider. **Stringency** The credentialing process took an average of two weeks for MH/SUD providers and over seven weeks for M/S providers. The CCO's medical director and credentialing committee were responsible for reviewing required information and making provider credentialing decisions for both MH/SUD and M/S providers. Human Resources similarly conducted the credentialing function, reviewing information and making credentialing decisions for MH/SUD providers (based on staff model of service delivery). Recredentialing for both MH/SUD and M/S providers was conducted every two years. Failure of MH/SUD and M/S providers to meet credentialing and recredentialing requirements resulted in the denial or termination of participation as an INN provider for the CCO. MH/SUD and M/S providers who were adversely affected by credentialing or recredentialing decisions were able to appeal the decision to the CCO's clinical management group for MH/SUD providers or the credentialing committee for M/S providers. MH/SUD and M/S providers were subject to meeting credentialing and recredentialing requirements; there were no exceptions reported. In operation, MH/SUD and M/S providers were determined to have been impacted equitably by the application of credentialing and recredentialing requirements, with no MH/SUD or M/S providers denied admission to the network during the reporting period.			
Outcome			
HSAG's analysis found AH's credentialing processes and data for MH/SUD providers to be comparable and no more stringently applied to, in writing and in operation, than those for M/S providers.			

Category VI—Out-of-Network/Out-of-State Limits

NQTL: OON and OOS limits

Benefit Package: CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG for adults and children

Classification: IP and OP

Overview: OON/OOS services were required to provide coverage for needed MH/SUD and M/S benefits when they were not available INN or in-state. Similarly, for MH/SUD FFS benefits, OHP FFS provided OOS coverage to provide needed benefits when they were not available in-state. HSAG analyzed AH's application of limits applied to OON/OOS limits based on comparability and stringency standard information provided below.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
1. To which benefit is the NQTL assigned?			
• Out of Network (OON) and Out of State (OOS) Benefits	• OOS Benefits	• Out of Network (OON) and Out of State (OOS) Benefits	• OOS Benefits
2. Why is the NQTL assigned to these benefits?			
• CCO seeks to maximize use of in-network providers because the use of local, contracted providers when available is convenient to members and allows the CCO to ensure that providers meet regulatory requirements and ensure quality care. • The purpose of providing OON/OOS coverage is to provide needed services when	• The State seeks to maximize use of in-State providers because the State has determined that they meet applicable requirements, and they have a provider agreement with the State, which includes agreement to comply with Oregon Medicaid requirements and accept DMAP rates.	• CCO seeks to maximize use of in-network providers because the use of local, contracted providers when available is convenient to members and allows the CCO to ensure that providers meet regulatory requirements and ensure quality care. • The purpose of providing OON/OOS coverage is to provide needed services when	• The State seeks to maximize use of in-State providers because the State has determined that they meet applicable requirements, and they have a provider agreement with the State, which includes agreement to comply with Oregon Medicaid requirements and accept DMAP rates.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
they are not available in-network/in-State. • The purpose of prior authorizing non-emergency OON/OOS benefits is to determine the medical necessity of the requested benefit and the availability of an in-network/in-State provider.	• The purpose of providing OOS coverage is to provide needed services when the service is not available in the State of Oregon or the client is OOS and requires covered services. • The purpose of PA for non-emergency OOS services is to ensure the criteria in OAR 410-120-1180 are met.	they are not available in-network/in-State. • The purpose of prior authorizing non-emergency OON/OOS benefits is to determine the medical necessity of the requested benefit and the availability of an in-network/in-State provider.	• The purpose of providing OOS coverage is to provide needed services when the service is not available in the State of Oregon or the client is OOS and requires covered services. • The purpose of PA for non-emergency OOS services is to ensure the criteria in OAR 410-120-1180 are met.
3. What evidence supports the rationale for the assignment?			
• The CCO covers OON/OOS benefits in accordance with Federal and State requirements, including OAR and the CCO contract.	• The State covers OOS benefits in accordance with OARs.	• The CCO covers OON/OOS benefits in accordance with Federal and State requirements, including OAR and the CCO contract.	• The State covers OOS benefits in accordance with OARs.
4. What are the NQTL procedures?			
• Except as otherwise required by OHA, non-emergency OON/OOS services are not covered unless medically necessary services are not available within network/in-State. • The CCO's criteria for non-emergency OON/OOS coverage include:	• Non-emergency OOS services are not covered unless the service meets the OAR criteria. • The OAR criteria for OOS coverage of non-emergency services include the service is not available in the State of Oregon or the client is OOS and requires covered services.	• Except as otherwise required by OHA, non-emergency OON/OOS services are not covered unless medically necessary services are not available within network/in-State. • The CCO's criteria for non-emergency OON/OOS coverage include:	• Non-emergency OOS services are not covered unless the service meets the OAR criteria. • The OAR criteria for OOS coverage of non-emergency services include the service is not available in the State of Oregon or the client is OOS and requires covered services.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
• If services are not available locally. • If services are not available in-State or the member if out of State. • Wait time for local specialist not clinically appropriate. • Collaboration with another provider (OON only). • The CCO developed its criteria for non-emergency OON/OOS coverage following OHA guidelines, CCO contract, and OAR. • Requests for non-emergency OON/OOS services are made through the prior authorization process. • The PA request for OON must include justification of need for OON provider. Requests for OOS must include evidence that treatment cannot reasonably be delivered within the State. • Authorization for OON/OOS is granted based on an expected course of treatment, which is based on medical literature and utilization data.	• Requests for non-emergency OOS services are made through the State PA process. • The timeframe for approving or denying a non-emergency OOS request is the same as for other PAs (14 days for standard and three business days for urgent). • OOS providers must enroll with Oregon Medicaid. • The State pays OOS providers the Medicaid FFS rate.	• If services are not available locally. • If services are not available in-State or the member if out of State. • Wait time for local specialist not clinically appropriate. • Collaboration with another provider (OON only). • The CCO developed its criteria for non-emergency OON/OOS coverage following OHA guidelines, CCO contract, and OAR. • Requests for non-emergency OON/OOS services are made through the prior authorization process. • The PA request for OON must include justification of need for OON provider. Requests for OOS must include evidence that treatment cannot reasonably be delivered within the State. • Authorization for OON/OOS is granted based on an expected course of treatment, • which is based on medical literature and utilization data.	• Requests for non-emergency OOS services are made through the State PA process. • The timeframe for approving or denying a non-emergency OOS request is the same as for other PAs (14 days for standard and three business days for urgent). • OOS providers must enroll with Oregon Medicaid. • The State pays OOS providers the Medicaid FFS rate.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
• The timeframe for approving or denying a non-emergency OON/OOS request is the same as for other prior authorizations (14 days for standard request). • The CCO establishes a single case agreement (SCA) with an OON/OOS provider if the provider is not willing to accept DMAP rates. • The CCO's process for establishing a SCA includes collecting information necessary to complete the SCA, including, for example, the provider's NPI and DMAP number, information to complete a provider exclusion check, the rate, and relevant terms of service. • The average length of time to negotiate a SCA is 14 days. • Only providers enrolled in Oregon Medicaid who are not on the exclusions list can qualify as an OON/OOS provider. • The CCO pays OON/OOS providers the Medicaid FFS		• The timeframe for approving or denying a non-emergency OON/OOS request is the same as for other prior authorizations (14 days for standard request). • The CCO establishes a single case agreement (SCA) with an OON/OOS provider if the provider is not willing to accept DMAP rates. • The CCO's process for establishing a SCA includes collecting information necessary to complete the SCA, including, for example, the provider's NPI and DMAP number, information to complete a provider exclusion check, the rate, and relevant terms of service. • The average length of time to negotiate a SCA is 14 days. • Only providers enrolled in Oregon Medicaid who are not on the exclusions list can qualify as an OON/OOS provider. • The CCO pays OON/OOS providers the Medicaid FFS	

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
rate (DMAP) or a negotiated rate with the provider when no reasonable options are available for specialized care.		rate (DMAP) or a negotiated rate with the provider if the facility is not a DRG facility (e.g., a children's hospital).	
5. How frequently or strictly is the NQTL applied?			
• If a request for a non-emergency OON/OOS benefit does not meet the CCO's OON/OOS criteria, it will not be prior authorized. • If a non-emergency OON/OOS benefit is not prior authorized, the service will not be covered, and payment for the service will be denied. Retrospective requests can be made in special circumstances. • Members/providers may appeal the denial of an OON/OOS request. • The CCO measures the stringency of the application of OON/OOS requirements by analyzing and monitoring denial/appeal rates, the adequacy of the provider network, number of requests for out of network care, the number of admissions per	• If a request for a non-emergency OOS benefit does not meet the OAR criteria, it will not be authorized. • If a non-emergency OOS benefit is not authorized, the service will not be covered, and payment for the service will be denied. • Members/providers may appeal the denial of an OOS request. • The State measures the stringency of the application of OOS requirements by reviewing OOS denial/appeal rates.	• If a request for a non-emergency OON/OOS benefit does not meet the CCO's OON/OOS criteria, it will not be prior authorized. • If a non-emergency OON/OOS benefit is not prior authorized, the service will not be covered, and payment for the service will be denied. Retrospective requests can be made in special circumstances. • Members/providers may appeal the denial of an OON/OOS request. • The CCO measures the stringency of the application of OON/OOS requirements by analyzing and monitoring denial/appeal rates, the adequacy of the provider network, number of requests for out of network care, the number of admissions per	• If a request for a non-emergency OOS benefit does not meet the OAR criteria, it will not be authorized. • If a non-emergency OOS benefit is not authorized, the service will not be covered, and payment for the service will be denied. • Members/providers may appeal the denial of an OOS request. • The State measures the stringency of the application of OOS requirements by reviewing OOS denial/appeal rates.

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
facility, and feedback from PCPs regarding timeliness of referrals. • The CCO evaluates the number of SCAs/OON/OOS requests at least annually to determine network need.		facility, and feedback from PCPs regarding timeliness of referrals. • The CCO evaluates the number of SCAs/OON /OOS requests at least annually to determine network need.	
6. What standard supports the frequency or rigor with which the NQTL is applied?			
• Federal and State requirements, including OAR and the CCO contract.	• The State covers OOS benefits in accordance with OAR.	• Federal and State requirements, including OAR and the CCO contract.	• The State covers OOS benefits in accordance with OAR.

Analysis

AH ensured OON/OOS coverage to provide needed MH/SUD and M/S benefits when they were not available INN or in-state. Similarly, for MH/SUD FFS benefits, the State provided OOS coverage to provide needed benefits when they were not available in-state. The same PA processes and evidentiary standards described in NQTL categories I, II, and III were applied to OOS coverage of MH/SUD and M/S benefits across all benefit packages (CCOA, CCOB, CCOE, and CCOG). AH established SCAs with OON providers in the absence of INN providers to ensure the provision of medically necessary services, while OHP FFS ensured OON providers were enrolled with Medicaid.

Comparability

For both nonemergency MH/SUD and M/S OON/OOS benefits, the CCO (and the State for FFS MH/SUD OOS benefits) requires prior authorization to determine medical necessity and to ensure no INN/in-state providers are available to provide the benefit. The same PA processes and evidentiary standards described in NQTL categories I, II, and III were applied to OOS coverage of MH/SUD and M/S requests. For OON coverage requests, the CCO would determine if an INN provider was available or work with the OON provider to establish a SCA with payment of applicable Medicaid FFS rates. This process was applied equitably to both MH/SUD and M/S providers across all benefit packages.

Stringency

Requests for nonemergency OON/OOS CCO MH/SUD and M/S benefits were made through the CCO's PA process and reviewed for medical necessity and INN/in-state coverage. The PA time frames (14 days for standard requests and 72 hours for urgent requests) applied. Similarly, the State reviewed requests for nonemergency OOS MH/SUD services through its PA process, adhering to its PA time frames identified at 14 days

CCO MH/SUD	FFS MH/SUD	CCO M/S	FFS M/S
for standard requests and 72 hours for urgent requests. The CCO described a process for handling a complex OON/OOS MH/SUD member case, identifying how it would appropriately apply the PA and SCA process to ensure benefits were provided in relation to the member's needs. AH also provided an SCA example for review that identified compliant agreement information and confirmed the CCO's processes related to its use of OON providers. For both MH/SUD and M/S benefits, AH and OHP FFS would not authorize payment for services denied.			
Outcome			
HSAG determined the processes, strategies, and evidentiary standards for OON/OOS limits applied to MH/SUD to be comparable and no more stringently applied, in writing and in operation, to M/S OON/OOS limits across all benefit packages.			

Appendix C. Improvement Plan Template

Advanced Health MHP Improvement Plan					
Year	**Finding #**	**Report Reference**	**Finding**	**Required Action**	
2020	1	Page. #			
CCO Intervention/Action Plan				**Individual(s) Responsible**	**Proposed Completion Date**
HSAG Assessment of CCO Intervention/Action					
CCO Post-Implementation Status Update					
Documentation Submitted as Evidence of Implemented Intervention/Action					
HSAG Assessment of Intervention/Action Implementation					