Beacon Transition

Effective March 1, 2020, Beacon Health Options ("Beacon") intends to transition from using its current medical necessity criteria to InterQual® Level of Care Criteria for utilization management purposes related to behavioral health care. Beacon's proprietary criteria sunsets on this date and will no longer be accredited.

InterQual criteria has been submitted to the Office of Mental Health for review as required under Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2019. Beacon will work with your plan and the Office of Mental Health to address any concerns impacting approval of the criteria, for the March 1 transition. With few exceptions, the criteria will be used to guide clinical decisions in the context of precertification, concurrent review, level of care, discharge planning and retrospective review. Beacon will continue to use other state-mandated criteria where directed to do so. In addition, for substance use disorder services, Beacon will continue to use NYS LOCADTR and ASAM level of care criteria where appropriate.

Why is this change being made? As part of normal operations, Beacon reviews and updates medical necessity criteria for mental health services. To streamline this process, Beacon has decided to purchase a nationally recognized, peer-reviewed and evidence-based criteria. After a comprehensive selection process, Beacon has selected InterQual Level of Care Criteria. These guidelines represent a compilation of best practices drawn from current behavioral health evidence. We believe that the evidence-based care guidelines published by InterQual will help providers and health plans drive informed care and ultimately lead to best practices and patient outcomes.

Additional information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. We remain committed to ensuring that our members receive the highest quality of behavioral health services in a timely manner.