



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2015 Assembly Bill 713

Assembly Amendment 1

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CURRENT LAW

The Department of Health Services (DHS) requires prior authorization (PA) for certain mental health services provided under the Medical Assistance (MA) program.

Assembly Bill 713 places the following limits on PA requirements that DHS may impose on certain mental health services under the MA program:

1. DHS must allow 24 mental health therapy visits before requiring PA for additional visits.
2. DHS must allow 15 days of adolescent day treatment services before requiring PA for additional days of treatment.
3. DHS may require only the information specified in the bill on PA forms and renewals.
4. Mental health services providers may only be required to provide information on PA forms that is within their scope of practice.

The bill also creates “preferred provider” status for mental health service providers with:

1. Five years’ experience as a certified provider under MA.
2. No instances of fraud in five years.
3. Ninety percent PA approval rate for the preceding three years.

The bill also requires health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to use uniform application forms and processes prescribed by DHS when providing mental health services under the MA program.

Finally, the bill requires HMOs that provide mental health services under the MA program to allow a mental health agency to replace a departing staff member with another qualified professional.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 does all of the following:

1. Clarifies the number of mental health visits that are allowed under the bill before PA is required **per calendar year**.
2. Specifies that provisions pertaining to adolescent day treatment also apply to day treatment for children.
3. Makes the following changes to the preferred provider provisions:
 - Clarifies that preferred providers are not required to obtain PA before providing mental health services, but are required to provide the same information, on the same schedule, as providers who are required to obtain PA.
 - Authorizes DHS to revoke PA status for good cause.
4. Deletes the bill's provisions regarding HMO forms and processes and the replacement of departing staff members.

BILL HISTORY

On February 12, 2016, the Assembly Committee on Health voted to recommend adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 11; Noes, 0. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 1.

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