



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Dear Provider,

On January 1, 2021, Health First Colorado, Colorado's Medicaid program, will expand its substance use disorder (SUD) benefit. Residential and inpatient treatment and withdrawal management services will be added to the existing list of covered SUD services, giving members access to a full range of treatment options. The Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs) will be responsible for authorizing inpatient and residential substance use disorder treatments as part of administering Health First Colorado's capitated behavioral health benefit.

To prepare members, providers and stakeholders for the launch of these new SUD services, weekly communication will be sent with updated guidance and other information.

The following guidance has been developed for inpatient and residential SUD providers to facilitate a smooth transition to Health First Colorado reimbursement for Health First Colorado members who are already in residential or inpatient treatment when the new benefit begins on January 1, 2021.

SUD residential treatment providers are asked to do the following:

1. Enroll as a provider with Health First Colorado. For information on provider enrollment, visit the [Find Your Provider Type web page](#).
2. Discuss with each RAE opportunities for establishing a contracting arrangement.
3. Generate a list of Health First Colorado members in treatment as of December 11, 2020. The list must contain the following information:
 - Member Name
 - Health First Colorado ID
 - Treatment Provider
 - Date of Admission
 - Anticipated Date of Discharge
 - Contact information for provider staff person
4. Submit the member list described in #3 to the Managed Service Organizations by December 14, 2020.
5. Coordinate with the individual RAEs as they reach out to discuss treatment plans, support transitions to community-based services for appropriate members, and arrange for stays that will extend beyond January 1 to be reviewed for continued stay authorizations.
6. Beginning December 28, 2020, submit continued stay authorization requests to the RAEs for all Health First Colorado members that will remain in inpatient or residential SUD treatment after December 31, 2020.
 - All continued stay authorization requests must be received by the RAEs by January 15, 2021, for members who began inpatient or residential SUD treatment prior to January 1, 2021.
 - Failure to submit continued stay authorization requests by January 15, 2021, will jeopardize a provider's ability to receive reimbursement back to January 1, 2021, for eligible members.

Providers must be enrolled with Health First Colorado in order to be eligible for reimbursement for services provided to Health First Colorado members.

Additional information will be posted within the next week to better support providers during this transition.

Providers are encouraged to visit the [Ensuring a Full Continuum of SUD Benefits web page](#) for the latest information.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

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