



COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Dear Residential Treatment Provider,

Effective November 15, 2025, all children and youth being considered for residential treatment (Qualified Residential Treatment Program [QRTP], Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility [PRTF] or Out-of-State High-Intensity Residential Treatment [OSHIRT]) will be required to undergo an Enhanced Standardized Assessment (ESA) for initial Health First Colorado coverage authorization. This applies when residential services are to be reimbursed directly by the Department of Healthcare Policy & Financing (the Department). Continuing stay approval will also be required for periods of treatment longer than 30 days. As of November 15, 2025, any child already in an episode of care in a QRTP or a PRTF will receive an initial 30-day approval. OSHIRT reviews will continue their regular 30-day review cadence. Continued stay reviews will begin December 15, 2025, and occur every 30 days thereafter.

Refer to [Operational Memo 25-032: Utilization Management and Assessment Requirements for Qualified Residential Treatment Providers \(QRTP\) and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities \(PRTF\)](#) for further information.

Refer to the [ColoradoPAR Training web page](#) for information about Utilization Management, Prior Authorization and Continuing Stay Reviews.

Contact Christina Winship at Christina.Winship@state.co.us with policy or enrollment questions.

Contact Acentra at coproviderregistration@acentra.com with questions regarding Utilization Management.

Thank you,

Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
