



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing
303 E. 17th Ave. Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80203

SUD Provider Benefit Forum January 7, 2026

Topic Covered	Notes
Welcome / Intro	The SUD Provider Forum is space for Providers to ask questions and learn more about the SUD Benefit, “Ensuring a Full Continuum of Care”. All SUD providers working in outpatient and inpatient (residential and hospital) are encouraged to participate, to ensure the full continuum of care is well represented. The forum is facilitated by HCPF’s Behavioral Health Benefits Section.
Alignment with ASAM 4 th Edition, effective July 1, 2027	<p>The Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Proposed Provider Rules: 2 CCR 502-1 - ASAM 4th Edition Aligned standards (proposed) are available to review on BHA’s Laws and Rules webpage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback period: January 1, 2026 - March 31, 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Community members can visit the BHA calendar to register for feedback and training events.◦ Submit feedback through this BHA Rule Feedback form or by email to cdhs_bharulefeedback@state.co.us• Once BHA rules are finalized, HCPF will be able to begin rate and reimbursement updates.• All providers, but especially 3.2WM providers, are encouraged to visit the Provider Ambassador Program webpage for resources to help prepare for the transition to the ASAM 4th Edition standards. <p><i>No questions</i></p>
1115 SUD Waiver Updates	<p>All 1115 Waiver updates are posted on the 1115 SUD Waiver webpage and are shared in our monthly newsletters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Withdrawal Management (WM) accounted for the majority of SUD Treatment services (79%) in 2024.• HCPF is closely tracking the impacts of high WM residential utilization to budget neutrality requirements of the 1115 waiver. Exceeding budget neutrality puts this SUD demonstration at risk for continuation. <p><i>No questions</i></p>
Residential UM Guidelines	<p>Per HCPF Behavioral Health Newsletter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective March 1st 2026 HCPF is removing the minimum length of stay authorization requirements



	<p>Provider question: Will this remain in effect after CO transitions to the ASAM 4th Edition? Is this a permanent change?</p> <p>HCPF response: Yes.</p>
<p>Discussion Item #1: Integrated Care Delivery in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)</p>	<p>Background: There has been some interest from OTP providers in integrating basic primary care services into OTPs.</p> <p>Stakeholder feedback/discussion: Do OTPs on this call have an interest in delivering primary care services?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited feedback provided. <p>Next steps: HCPF will continue to investigate and discuss this with the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and OTP providers to identify opportunities and barriers.</p>
<p>Discussion Item #2: Definitive Drug Testing Policy</p>	<p>Background: Definitive Drug Testing Policy reviewed</p> <p>Stakeholder feedback/discussion: Where do providers anticipate operational challenges in applying the definitive testing limits, and what clarification would be most helpful?</p> <p>Provider feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated impact on the justice-involved population who require drug testing that falls outside of medical necessity. Request for utilization data to support tracking. Concern on how costs might impact lab vendors. Request for guidance on medical necessity and noncoverage; allowed to bill the member? <p>Next steps: HCPF is working on how to track utilization and will provide more information. HCPF is also developing provider guidance.</p>
<p>Q&A / Walk on Items from Provider Community</p>	<p>Provider Question: Inpatient WM was addressed during the Manatt webinar on Medicaid Innovation, Sustainability and Opportunities, suggesting CO could shift to more effective outpatient alternatives where appropriate. Can you please explain this?</p> <p>HCPF response: HCPF will continue to cover withdrawal management across all levels of care, while closely tracking rates of readmission to 3.2WM.</p> <p>Provider Question: Some RAEs are paying claims at \$0.00 instead of denying the claim and it's been challenging to resolve this. Would it be possible to implement consistency with denials?</p>



	<p>RAE 1 & 2 response: RAEs will take this back to claims teams.</p> <p>HCPF response: HCPF will discuss this with RAEs.</p>
Resources & Reminders	<p>Providers are encouraged to bookmark the HCPF Behavioral Health webpage</p> <p>Reminder to sign up for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCPF Newsletters & access previous Health First Colorado BH Updates newsletters here • HCPF BH Office Hours & Forums on the BH Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next SUD Office Hours: February 4, 2026 from 2-3 p.m. - Next SUD Forum: April 1, 2026 from 2-3 p.m.

