Community Behavioral Health: Provider Notification
UDS and Vitals No Longer Required to Preauthorize Substance Use Treatment
May 1, 2018

Beginning May 1, 2018, CBH will accept preauthorization requests for substance use treatment (3A, 3B, 3C, 4A, 4B) from providers who are unable to collect urine drug screens (UDS) and vital signs. This change is being made to further increase access to treatment. CBH will continue to ask providers with capability to collect UDS and vital signs to provide this information to inform treatment authorizations.

This change means assessment sites (for example Crisis Response Centers) currently capable of collecting UDS and vital signs should continue to do so. Assessment sites without this capability will now be able to submit preauthorization requests and make referrals for substance use treatment.

Residential and hospital substance use treatment providers must be able to accept the minimal number of members who will be preauthorized without UDS and vital signs. Acceptance criteria and admission protocols should be modified as needed to make this accommodation. Providers should continue to follow clinical best practices and state regulatory standards related to obtaining vitals and UDS results as part of the assessment and treatment planning process.