



---

## PROVIDER ALERT

### All Substance Use Disorders-Intensive Outpatient Program (SUD-IOP) Providers: Updates to Authorization Parameters

March 10, 2021

Optum Maryland would like to inform SUD-IOP service providers of upcoming improvements to the process of requesting authorization for SUD-IOP services. We are simplifying the process by reducing the number of prerequisites/steps to make it easier for providers to rapidly obtain initial authorization. Beginning on March 15, 2021, the following changes will be implemented:

#### Initial SUD-IOP Requests

- Providers will submit their request using the authorization plan “SUD-IOP-Initial” and complete all required documentation.
- **Once you complete your authorization request, the system will issue an auto-approval.** The expectation is that all requested services meet medical necessity and all requests are subject to audit.
- The available units for initial authorization are 20 units over a duration of 42 days (6 weeks). If additional services are needed beyond this initial authorization, providers are required to submit a concurrent request for continued services. If the provider uses the initial authorization plan multiple times for the same provider/participant, those requests are considered invalid and will be voided.

#### Concurrent SUD-IOP Requests

- There is no longer separation between first concurrent and initial concurrent. Instead, all concurrent requests must use the authorization plan “SUD-IOP-Concurrent”. Concurrent reviews will continue to be clinically reviewed for medical necessity, prior to approval being rendered.
- The available units for Concurrent authorizations are up to 20 units over a duration of up to 42 days (6 weeks).

If you have questions about the information contained in this alert, please contact customer services at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,  
Optum Maryland Team

---