

Provider Communications

Massachusetts



Date: Oct. 31, 2025 Number: 289

To: All WellSense Providers

From: WellSense Health Plan

Subject: **Behavioral health medical necessity criteria, administrative policies and performance specification updates**

Product: MassHealth MA Clarity plans

Behavioral health medical necessity criteria, administrative policies and performance specification updates

Use the links below to access the attachments mentioned within this notice:

- [Medical Policies](#)
- [Performance Specifications](#)

Medical necessity criteria updates:

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, we'll introduce new medical necessity criteria for the following services, copies are attached to this notice.

Services with plan prior authorization required:

- For both MassHealth and Massachusetts Clarity plans
 - Inpatient Mental Health Specializing Services OCA 3.91 for MassHealth and MA Clarity.
- For MassHealth plans only
 - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) OCA 3.82
 - Family-Based Intensive Treatment OCA (FIT) OCA 3.915
 - Transitional Care Unit (TCU) OCA 3.94
- For Massachusetts Clarity plans only

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- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) OCA 3.83 to be used for the diagnosis of down syndrome.

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, for MA Clarity and MassHealth, we will use our current product-specific home health care medical policies (available on the our website) to determine the medical necessity of the following behavioral health services:

- Adult Home Care and Geriatric Home Care
- Psychiatric Visiting Nurse

Services with plan notification on admission and concurrent review required with the policies below, which are attached to this notice:

- For both MassHealth and Massachusetts Clarity plans
 - Community-Based Acute Treatment (CBAT)/ Intensive Community-Based Acute Treatment (ICBAT) OCA 3.92
 - Community-Based Acute Treatment for Intellectual Disability/Autism Spectrum Disorder (CBAT-ID/ASD) OCA 3.93
 - In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS) OCA 3.85
 - Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) OCA 3.87
- For MassHealth plans only
 - In-Home Therapy (IHT) OCA 3.86
- For Massachusetts Clarity plans only
 - Family Stabilization Team OCA 3.88

Service with Plan notification for continued stay required with the below policy attached to this notice:

- For both MassHealth and Massachusetts Clarity plans
 - Community Crisis Stabilization (ACCS/YCCS) OCA 3.90

Services with plan notification required with the below policies which are attached to this notice:

- For both MassHealth and Massachusetts Clarity plans
 - Community Support Programs (CSP) OCA 3.31
 - Dual Diagnosis Acute Treatment (DDAT)/Enhanced Acute Treatment Services (E-ATS) OCA 3.68
 - Recovery Coach (RC) OCA 3.66

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- Recovery Support Navigator (RSN) OCA 3.67
- Specialized Community Support Programs OCA 3.34
 - Review our Specialized Community Support Programs medical policy for the list of specific behavioral health support services categorized as specialized community support.
- For MassHealth plans only
 - Program of Assertive Community Based Treatment (PACT) OCA 3.32

Effective January 1, 2026, we will use InterQual criteria sets to determine medical necessity for the following services.

Services with plan notification and concurrent review required:

- For both MassHealth and Massachusetts Clarity plans
 - Inpatient Mental Health
 - Inpatient Psychiatric Services
 - Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation
- For Massachusetts Clarity plans only
 - Applied Behavior Analysis to be used for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

Services with plan notification required:

- For both MassHealth and Massachusetts Clarity plans
 - Partial Hospitalization Program for MassHealth and MA Clarity.
 - Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing for MassHealth and MA Clarity.

Effective January 1, 2026, we will use American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria to determine medical necessity for the following services with plan notification required:

- For both MassHealth and Massachusetts Clarity plans
 - Acute Treatment Services (ATS) (Level 3.7)
 - Acute Treatment Services (ATS) (Level 4.0)
 - Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS) (Level 3.5)
 - Structured Outpatient Addiction Program
- For MassHealth plans only
 - Individual Treatment and Recovery (ITS)
 - Residential Rehabilitation (Level 3.5)

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Effective Jan. 1, 2026, the following services must meet the our medical necessity criteria when it is a covered service for the member, but plan prior authorization, plan notification, and/or concurrent review will not be required. Current authorization guidelines will remain in place until then.

- MassHealth covered services:
 - Acupuncture Treatment for Substance Use Disorders using ASAM criteria.
 - Ambulatory Detox for using ASAM criteria.
- MassHealth and MA Clarity covered services:
 - Buprenorphine Maintenance Treatment using ASAM criteria.
 - Day Treatment using InterQual criteria.
 - Family Support and Training/Family Partner (FS&T/FP) OCA 3.95 using our medical policy attached to this notice.
 - Inpatient Electroconvulsive Therapy using InterQual criteria.
 - Medication Management using InterQual criteria.
 - Methadone Maintenance Treatment using ASAM criteria.
 - Outpatient Electroconvulsive Therapy using InterQual criteria.
 - Routine Outpatient Services using InterQual criteria.
 - Therapeutic Mentoring (TM) OCA 3.74 using our medical policy attached to this notice.

Administrative policy updates

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, we will introduce a new administrative policy to determine medical necessity for the following service with plan prior authorization required:

- For both MassHealth and Massachusetts Clarity plans
 - Administratively Necessary Days Related to Behavioral Health Services OCA 3.103, a copy is attached to this notice.

Performance specification updates

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, we will use the following performance specifications consistent with those published by MassHealth and apply to MassHealth members. When new performance specifications are released, or revisions to established performance specifications are issued by MassHealth, we will adopt and implement them within the same timeframe as required to meet regulatory and

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contractual obligations. These updates will be effective on the same date that MassHealth implements them. Copies are attached to this notice.

- 24-Hour Diversionary Services:
 - Acute Treatment Services (ATS) for Pregnant Women, Performance Spec OCA 3.
 - Acute Treatment Services (ATS) for Substance Use Disorders, Performance Spec OCA 4.
 - Clinical Stabilization Services (CSS) for Substance Use Disorders, Performance Spec OCA 5.
 - Community-Based Acute Treatment (CBAT) for Children and Adolescents, Performance Spec OCA 6.
 - Community-Based Acute Treatment (CBAT) for Children and Adolescents with Intellectual Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder (ID/ASD), Performance Spec OCA 7.
 - Co-Occurring Enhanced Residential Rehabilitation Services (RRS) for Substance Use Disorder, Performance Spec OCA 8.
 - Enhanced Acute Treatment Services (E-ATS) for Individuals with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder, Performance Spec OCA 23.
 - Residential Rehabilitation Services (RRS) for Families, Performance Spec OCA 9.
 - Residential Rehabilitation Services (RRS) for Pregnant and Post- Partum Women, Performance Spec OCA 10.
 - Residential Rehabilitation Services (RRS) for Substance Use Disorders, Performance Spec OCA 11.
 - Residential Rehabilitation Services (RRS) for Transitional-Age Youth (Ages 16-21) and Young Adults (Ages 18-25) (TAYYA), Performance Spec OCA 12.
 - Residential Rehabilitation Services (RRS) for Youth (Ages 13-17), Performance Spec OCA 13.
 - Transitional Care Unit (TCU), Performance Spec OCA 63.
 - Youth Transition Detoxification and Stabilization Services (YSS), Performance Spec OCA 14.
- Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI):
 - Family-Based Intensive Treatment, Performance Spec OCA 55.
 - Family Support and Training, Performance Spec OCA 17.

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- In-Home Behavioral Services, Performance Spec OCA 18.
- In-Home Therapy Services, Performance Spec OCA 19.
- Targeted Case Management Services/Intensive Care Coordination, Performance Spec OCA 15.
- Therapeutic Mentoring Services, Performance Spec OCA 16.
- Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC):
 - Adult Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention (AMCI), Performance Spec OCA 22.
 - Adult Community Crisis Stabilization (ACCS), Performance Spec OCA 1.
 - Community Behavioral Health Centers, Performance Spec OCA 21.
 - Youth Community-Based Mobile Crisis Intervention (YMCI), Performance Spec OCA 20.
 - Youth Community Crisis Stabilization (YCCS), Performance Spec OCA 2.
- General Performance Specifications, Performance Spec OCA 24.
- Inpatient Services:
 - Inpatient Eating Disorder Services, Performance Spec OCA 25.
 - Inpatient Mental Health Services, Performance Spec OCA 26.
 - Inpatient Mental Health Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ID), Performance Spec OCA 27.
 - Inpatient Mental Health Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder (ID/ASD), Performance Spec OCA 28.
 - Inpatient Substance Use Disorder Services (Level IV Detoxification Services), Performance Spec OCA 29.
 - Observation/Holding Beds, Performance Spec OCA 30.
- Non-24 Hour Diversionary Services:
 - Acute Partial Hospital Program (PHP), Performance Spec OCA 31.
 - Acute Partial Hospital Program (PHP) for Eating Disorders, Performance Spec OCA 32.
 - Community Support Program (CSP), Performance Spec OCA 33.
 - Community Support Program for Homeless Individuals (CSP-HI), Performance Spec OCA 59.
 - Community Support Program for Individuals with Justice Involvement (CSP-JI), Performance Spec OCA 60.

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- Community Support Program for Tenancy Preservation (CSP-TPP), Performance Spec OCA 61.
- Enhanced Psychiatric Day Treatment, Performance Spec OCA 34.
- Enhanced Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP) for Adolescents, Performance Spec OCA 35.
- Enhanced Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP) for Members Experiencing Homelessness, Performance Spec OCA 36.
- Enhanced Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP) for Pregnant and Postpartum Members, Performance Spec 62.
- Intensive Outpatient Services (IOP), Performance Spec OCA Performance Spec OCA 37.
- Intensive Outpatient Services (IOP) for Members who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (IOP for DHOH), Performance Spec OCA 38.
- Program of Assertive Community-Based Treatment (PACT), Performance Spec OCA 58.
- Psychiatric Day Treatment, Performance Spec OCA 39.
- Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP), Performance Spec OCA 40.
- Outpatient Services:
 - Acupuncture Treatment, Performance Spec OCA 44.
 - Ambulatory Detoxification Level II.1, Performance Spec OCA 45.
 - Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Performance Spec OCA 46.
 - Assessment for Safe and Appropriate Placement (ASAP), Performance Spec OCA 47.
 - Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Performance Spec OCA 48.
 - Home-Based and Non-Facility Based, Performance Spec OCA 49.
 - Opioid Treatment Services, Performance Spec OCA 50.
 - Outpatient Services, Performance Spec OCA 43.
 - Peer Recovery Coach, Performance Spec OCA 56.
 - Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing/Assessment, Performance Spec OCA 51.
 - Recovery Support Navigator, Performance Spec OCA 57.
 - Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (rTMS), Performance Spec OCA 52.

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- School-Based, Performance Spec OCA 53.
- Urgent Outpatient Services (UOS), Performance Spec OCA 54.
- Other Outpatient Services:
 - Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT), Performance Spec OCA 41.
 - Psychiatric Consultation on an Inpatient Medical Unit, Performance Spec OCA 42.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact your dedicated provider relations consultant or call 888-566-0008. You can also send comments about our medical policies to medical.policy@wellsense.org. Please include the medical policy title and number with your comments.