



Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Prior Authorization Data

Calendar Year 2025

STANISLAUS COUNTY – UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT

Overview

The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) requires that Prior Authorization Data be published on the Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) public website. The data presented in this document is for calendar year 2025.

This requirement supports the BHRS Utilization Management (UM) team’s goals of making sure Medi-Cal members who meet medical necessity criteria access mental health and substance use treatment services timely.

Services Requiring Prior Authorization

Prior authorization or a referral is required for the following mental health (MH) outpatient services:

- Intensive Home-Based Services
- Day Treatment Intensive
- Day Rehabilitation
- Therapeutic Behavioral Services
- Therapeutic Foster Care

For these services, a referral from the Behavioral Health Plan (BHP) to a contracted provider serves the same purpose as approving a prior authorization request submitted by a provider or member.

Prior authorization is required for the following substance use disorder (SUD) services:

- Residential Services

Inpatient Services

*Number redacted due to DHCS guidance of any count under 11

NA* - No request received; percentage cannot be calculated

NA** - No request received; processing time does not apply

Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS)

These services are designed specifically for each member. It includes strength-based interventions to improve mental health conditions that may interfere with the child/youth’s functioning. These services aim to help the child/youth build necessary skills to function better at home and in the community.

INTENSIVE HOME-BASED SERVICES (IHBS)		
Category	Measure	Value
Standard Requests	Total Received	114
	Approved Percentage	100%
	Denied Percentage	0%
	Percentage of Approved After Appeal	NA*
	Percentage of Approved After Extended Timeframe	NA*
Expedited Requests	Total Received	0
	Approved Percentage	NA*
	Denied Percentage	NA*
All Requests	Total (Standard + Expedited)	114
Processing Time – Standard	Average Time to Decision	1 day
	Median Time to Decision	1 day
Processing Time – Expedited	Average Time to Decision	NA**
	Median Time to Decision	NA**

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NA** - No request received; processing time does not apply

Therapeutic Behavioral Health Services (TBS)

Therapeutic Behavioral Services are intensive, short-term outpatient treatment interventions for members up to age 21. These services are designed specifically for each member. Members receiving these services have serious emotional disturbances, are experiencing stressful changes or life crisis, and need additional short-term, specific support services.

THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES (TBS)		
Category	Measure	Value
Standard Requests	Total Received	61
	Approved Percentage	97%
	Denied Percentage	3%
	Percentage of Approved After Appeal	NA*
	Percentage of Approved After Extended Timeframe	NA*
Expedited Requests	Total Received	0
	Approved Percentage	NA*
	Denied Percentage	NA*
All Requests	Total (Standard + Expedited)	61
Processing Time – Standard	Average Time to Decision	0 Days
	Median Time to Decision	0 Days
Processing Time – Expedited	Average Time to Decision	NA**
	Median Time to Decision	NA**

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NA* - No request received; percentage cannot be calculated

NA** - No request received; processing time does not apply

Therapeutic Foster Care

Therapeutic Foster Care provides short-term, intensive, and trauma-informed specialty mental health services for children/youth up to the age of 21 who have complex emotional and behavioral needs. These services are designed specifically for each member. In Therapeutic Foster Care, children/youth are placed with trained, supervised, and supported Therapeutic Foster Care parents.

THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE (TFC)		
Category	Measure	Value
Standard Requests	Total Received	<11*
	Approved Percentage	100%
	Denied Percentage	0%
	Percentage of Approved After Appeal	NA*
	Percentage of Approved After Extended Timeframe	NA*
Expedited Requests	Total Received	0
	Approved Percentage	NA*
	Denied Percentage	NA*
All Requests	Total (Standard + Expedited)	<11*
Processing Time – Standard	Average Time to Decision	<1 Day
	Median Time to Decision	0 Days
Processing Time – Expedited	Average Time to Decision	NA**
	Median Time to Decision	NA**

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N/A* - No request received; percentage cannot be calculated

N/A** - No request received; processing time does not apply

Substance Use Treatment Residential 3.1, 3.3 and 3.5

Substance Use residential treatment is a live-in program for members who need more intensive support to stop the daily use of alcohol or drugs. These structured programs are provided in licensed treatment facilities with separate settings for men, women, and women with children. The length of stay varies and is based on each members need as determined during the assessment ASAM 3.1 is for clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential and 3.5 is clinically Managed High-Intensity Residential Services.

SUD RESIDENTIAL 3.1		
Category	Measure	Value
Standard Requests	Total Received	594
	Approved Percentage	99%
	Denied Percentage	<1%
	Percentage of Approved After Appeal	NA*
	Percentage of Approved After Extended Timeframe	NA*
Expedited Requests	Total Received	0
	Approved Percentage	NA*
	Denied Percentage	NA*
All Requests	Total (Standard + Expedited)	594
Processing Time – Standard	Average Time to Decision	13 Hours
	Median Time to Decision	3 Hours
Processing Time – Expedited	Average Time to Decision	NA**
	Median Time to Decision	NA**

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SUD RESIDENTIAL 3.3		
Category	Measure	Value
Standard Requests	Total Received	20
	Approved Percentage	100%
	Denied Percentage	0%
	Percentage of Approved After Appeal	NA*
	Percentage of Approved After Extended Timeframe	NA*
Expedited Requests	Total Received	0
	Approved Percentage	NA*
	Denied Percentage	NA*
All Requests	Total (Standard + Expedited)	20
Processing Time – Standard	Average Time to Decision	13 Hours
	Median Time to Decision	12 Hours
Processing Time – Expedited	Average Time to Decision	NA**
	Median Time to Decision	NA**

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NA* - No request received; percentage cannot be calculated

NA** - No request received; processing time does not apply

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SUD RESIDENTIAL 3.5		
Category	Measure	Value
Standard Requests	Total Received	761
	Approved Percentage	99%
	Denied Percentage	<1%
	Percentage of Approved After Appeal	NA*
	Percentage of Approved After Extended Timeframe	NA*
Expedited Requests	Total Received	0
	Approved Percentage	NA*
	Denied Percentage	NA*
All Requests	Total (Standard + Expedited)	761
Processing Time – Standard	Average Time to Decision	13 Hours
	Median Time to Decision	9 Hours
Processing Time – Expedited	Average Time to Decision	NA**
	Median Time to Decision	NA**

*Number redacted due to DHCS guidance of any count under 11

NA* - No request received; percentage cannot be calculated

NA** - No request received; processing time does not apply