

North Carolina State Health Plan

Teachers' and State Employees' Comprehensive Major Medical Plan
and NC HealthChoice

Inpatient Medical Detoxification for Chemical Dependency **Policy Number: AD0420**

Definition:

Chemical dependency is a general term used to describe the physically and/or psychologically dependent condition caused by substances such as alcohol, barbiturates, opiates, etc. Inpatient medical detoxification consists of medical treatment and supervision of withdrawal from drug(s) or alcohol for individuals who are physically dependent.

Coverage:

Treatment of chemical dependency is covered under the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes 135-40.7B.

Approval:

1. For emergency inpatient admissions, requests for certification by the Mental Health Case Manager must be made within two business days. See Medical Policy IN0450, Inpatient Psychiatric and Chemical Dependency Care for the definition of an emergency admission. The Mental Health Case Manager is accessible 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year, to accommodate requests for certification of emergency admissions.
2. All services must be precertified by the Mental Health Case Manager prior to the start of treatment with emergency inpatient admissions being the only exception (see #1 above).
3. Continuing treatment must also be precertified by the Mental Health Case Manager prior to the end of the previously certified period.
4. Failure to comply with the approval process may result in ineligibility for reimbursement.
5. Detoxification services are eligible for reimbursement by the Plan only when consistent with the most current edition of the American Society of Addiction Medicine Patient Placement Criteria for the Treatment of Substance-Related Disorders.
6. To ensure that the provider and the member know whether the service will be covered, the Mental Health Case Manager will inform the provider by phone and a confirmatory letter will be sent to both the provider and covered person.

Limitations and Exclusions:

1. Inpatient hospital care for medical detoxification rendered in a facility which is not licensed as a hospital and accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization approved by the mental health case manager is not covered.
2. Medical detoxification benefits are available based on a medical necessity determination by the Mental Health Case Manager.
3. For a list of noncovered services, please refer to Medical Policy AD0430, Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Case Management, for additional limitations and exclusions.
4. See <http://www.shpnc.org> for a complete listing of medical policies

Authority

G.S. 135-40.7B

Revised:

April, 1991

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