

North Carolina
State Health Plan

for Teachers and State Employees and
NC Health Choice for Children

www.shpnc.org

**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 135-45.9.

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 pre-certified 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 pre-certified by the Mental Health Case Manager prior to the end of the previously certified period.
4. 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.

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 non-covered 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

N.C. G.S. 135-44.4

N.C. G.S. 135-45.1

N.C. G.S. 135-45.9

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Effective:

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