



*Published by the  
N.J. Dept. of Human Services,  
Div. of Medical Assistance & Health Services  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction  
Services*

# Medicaid Alert

MA-2020-04

April 2020

**TO:** Independent Clinics - Services – **For Action**  
Managed Care Organizations – **For Information**

**SUBJECT:** **COVID-19 and Prior Authorization of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services**

**EFFECTIVE:** **Immediately**

**BACKGROUND:** As per the provisions of Title XIX of the Social Security Act by Health and Human Services, the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, (DMAHS) was granted a temporary waiver of certain Medicaid requirements under Section 1135 of the Act. As such the following Prior Authorization (PA) processes for Medicaid-covered Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services authorized by the Interim Managing Entity (IME) will be implemented.

**ACTION:**

**Effective Immediately**, Due to the COVID-19 NJ State of Emergency, please be advised that the requirement for Medicaid Prior Authorization for SUD services have been suspended for all levels of care beginning April 1, 2020 and continuing until further notice.

SUD treatment providers must continue to enter client admissions into New Jersey Substance Abuse Monitoring System (NJSAMS). All Client admissions should continue to conform to ASAM placement guidelines for all SUD services.

All provider agencies shall maintain appropriate documentation and place beneficiaries in the appropriate levels of care for all services provided during the COVID-19 NJ State of Emergency.

Providers must continue to bill Medicaid in accordance with Federal and State Medicaid guidance, rules, and mandates.

Providers must continue to verify Medicaid eligibility and assist individuals with enrollment as usual. For Medicaid enrolled beneficiaries that were scheduled to terminate the end of this March, eligibility will continue through the COVID-19 NJ State of Emergency.

Please refer to [www.njmmis.com](http://www.njmmis.com) or <https://nj.gov/humanservices/coronavirus.html> for updates to policies and guidance in response to the COVID-19 NJ State of Emergency.

If you have any questions concerning this Medicaid Alert, please contact DXC Technology Provider Services at 1-800-776-6334.

**PLEASE RETAIN THIS ALERT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**