



Provider Notice

February 6, 2026

Prior Authorization Updates to Inpatient and Outpatient Behavioral Health Services Effective January 2026

CountyCare complies with all legislative changes as required and set forth by the State of Illinois. As a result of recent changes and requirements set forth in the [Health Care Protection Act \(HPA\) as amended In Public Act Public Act 104-0028 \(2025\): 104-0028](#), please see below updates to the prior authorization process for inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services.

Details:

- Legislation effective date: January 1, 2026.
- No prior authorization requirements for inpatient and outpatient behavioral services.*
**Exception: Prior authorization requirements apply for all services rendered by non-participating providers.*
- A one business day clinical notification is **required** to initiate behavioral health inpatient services and some outpatient services as noted on the [Prior Authorization Look-Up Tool](#).

Please note:

- Concurrent reviews for medical necessity will be completed after the clinical notification timeframe.
- Discharge plans for inpatient authorizations should be developed and shared to ensure continuity of care and align with member's community preference at discharge.

Thank you for working with us to ensure that CountyCare members receive quality care at the right time and in the right setting. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact CountyCare Provider Services at countycareproviderservices@cookcountyhhs.org or your assigned Provider Relations Representative.