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## **DBHR Guidance Document** **Drug Screens/Urinalysis Testing for Behavioral Health Organizations**

**Is funding for drug screens/urinary analysis (UAs) covered in the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan Managed Care Contract? If so, for which specific populations?**

Drug screens/UAs for Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST) and pregnant women are included in the managed care rate and are called out explicitly in the state plan to be done as needed for determination of suitability for medical tests or treatment and monitoring alcohol/drug use for these two populations.

The PHIP contract contains language to specify that Medicaid covers drug screens/UAs for these two populations. DBHR will not have the BHOs report drug screens/UAs as an encounter, but to instead incorporate the cost of this activity into the payment to the provider.

**Are BHOs required to pay for UAs for non-Medicaid populations?**

No. BHOs may include the cost of the drug screens/UAs as part of the outpatient rate but it is not required. The BHO may reimburse providers for drug screens/UAs sent to a lab for analysis with non-Medicaid funds.

**Are there any limits on the number of drug screens UAs the BHOs should be paying for?**

No. There is no limit on the number of drug screens/UAs other than what is stated in the state plan on page 2 of this document.

**NOTE:** The Health Care Authority (HCA) medical benefit does not pay for Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment drug screens/UAs. For drug screens/UAs to be covered under the medical benefit they must be ordered by a physician as part of a medical evaluation.

**Do the BHOs, have to pay for Court ordered drug screens/UAs if they are not medically necessary?**

No. The BHOs do not have to pay for Court ordered drug screens/UAs if they are not medically necessary and covered by the state plan.

**Are there any limitations on the type of drug screens/UAs BHOs can pay for?**

Yes, for Medicaid reimbursed drug screens/UAs. Please see the state plan limitations on page 2 of this document.

No, for non-Medicaid reimbursed drug screens/UAs there is no limitation.

**Which drug screen/UA entity will BHOs contract with for these services?**

BHOs will be able to decide on what entity to contract with for these services, or they may defer to their providers to make that decision.

## STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State WASHINGTONAMOUNT, DURATION, AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL AND REMEDIAL  
CARE AND SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE CATEGORICALLY NEEDY

## 3. Other laboratory and x-ray services

## a. Laboratory services

Pathology services are considered to be the same as laboratory services. The department covers all these services that are inpatient hospital. Limitations shown below are for outpatient.

Drug screens only when medically necessary and when:

- Ordered by a physician as part of a medical evaluation; or
- As drug and alcohol screens required to assess suitability for medical tests or treatment. For opiate substitution and pregnant women clients in the department's contracted treatment programs, drug screens for monitoring alcohol/drug use are reimbursed through a contract issued by the department.

One each of the following, per client per day:

- Blood draw fee; and
- Catheterization for collection of urine specimen.

## b. Radiology services

The department covers all these services that are inpatient hospital. Limitations shown below are for outpatient.

The following services require prior approval through the Expedited Prior Authorization (EPA) process:

- Outpatient magnetic resonance imaging (MRI);
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans;
- More than one annual screening mammogram for clients forty (40) years of age and older (based on the National Cancer Institute (NCI) recommendations regarding screening mammograms); and
- General anesthesia for radiological procedures. Allowed only when the medically necessary procedures cannot be performed unless the client is anesthetized.

Portable x-ray services furnished in the client's home or a nursing facility are limited to films that do not involve the use of contrast media.

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