

Provider Update

Change in Authorization Process for Short-Term Nursing Facility Care for CHOICES Group 2 and Group 3 Members

Summary: On November 1, 2013, Amerigroup Community Care is changing our precertification requirements for CHOICES Group 2 and Group 3 members when short-term nursing facility care is needed. Please note this requirement applies to all levels of short-term nursing facility care that a Group 2 or Group 3 member may need.

✦ **What this means to you:** This change will require providers to request a precertification for CHOICES Group 2 and Group 3 members prior to admitting them to the nursing facility. Amerigroup will provide an authorization when the short-term nursing facility care is appropriate for Group 2 and/or Group 3 CHOICES members. You can request this authorization by contacting Amerigroup via email, phone, or fax as indicated below.

- Email: LTCProvReq@amerigroup.com
- Phone: 1-866-840-4991
- Fax: 1-888-762-3203

This will replace previous requirements provided for short-term nursing facility care in the CHOICES supplement.

Why is this change necessary?

We are streamlining our precertification requirements to make the process for serving CHOICES Group 2 and Group 3 members the same. On November 1, 2013, when the new precertification process goes into effect, it will serve as notification to Amerigroup when a Group 2 and/or Group 3 member needs to be considered for short-term nursing facility care.

Terms and Definitions

Precertification is the act of authorizing specific services before they are rendered and/or before they occur.

Short-Term Nursing Facility Stays are defined as the provision of Medicaid-reimbursed nursing facility care for up to ninety (90) days to a CHOICES Group 2 or CHOICES Group 3 Member who was receiving home and community based services (HCBS) upon admission and who meets nursing facility level of care and requires temporary placement in a nursing facility—for example, due to the need for skilled or rehabilitative services upon hospital discharge or due to the temporary illness or absence of a primary caregiver—when such member is reasonably expected to be discharged and to resume HCBS participation within no more than ninety (90) days.

If you have questions, call your Provider Relations representative at 615-316-2460.

Thank you for participating in the Amerigroup network. We appreciate the services you provide to your patients, our members.

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