

# Provider Update

## Outpatient therapies authorization requirements change

**Background:** Amerigroup Washington, Inc. reviewed its history of outpatient authorizations for pediatric physical, speech and occupational therapy. We determined that we had denied very few services and thus, we removed prior authorization requirements effective January 15, 2016 for our pediatric Medicaid members. Below is a summary of the requirements for physical, speech and occupational therapy.

✦ **What this means to you:** As of January 15, 2016, the following authorization requirements apply:

- Children (ages 0 to 20 years) – No authorizations are required.
- Adults – Precertification is not required for evaluations, but initial treatment and subsequent treatments require precertification.

### **What is the impact of this change?**

Therapies for rehabilitative care are covered as medically necessary.

Benefit levels for adults:

Type of therapy	Number of visits	Units per visit
Physical	24	15 minutes
Occupational	24	15 minutes
Speech	Six	60 minutes

We approve up to one evaluation and six occupational/physical/speech therapy visits when authorization is requested without clinical evaluation. With evaluation, an additional six visits may be approved. Up to six visits of speech therapy may be approved with or without evaluation.

### **What if I need assistance?**

If you have questions about this communication, received it in error or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.

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