




**Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Health Plan Advisory** **No. 16-02**

DATE: November 21, 2016

TO: Nebraska Heritage Health Plans

FROM: Calder Lynch, Director  
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care 

BY: Heather Leschinsky, Deputy Director

RE: Continuity of Care for Medical and Behavioral Health Services

This Health Plan Advisory is being issued to provide instructions to Heritage Health Plans on the processes required for continuity of care during implementation and transition.

**1) Active authorizations within fee-for-service and the existing managed care plans**  
Active authorizations with dates of service after 12/31/2016 will be transferred electronically to the Heritage Health plans for their members.

The Heritage Health plans must honor previously approved authorizations for the lesser of:

- 90 days from implementation of Heritage Health on January 1, 2017,
- The original end date on the authorization from the previous entity, or
- The date on which the new Heritage Health plan, with consultation from the provider, makes a new or different medical necessity determination.

During the period from 1/1/17 through 3/31/17, the plans must honor the authorization regardless of provider network participation, and the provider should be reimbursed at 100% of the Medicaid fee schedule or the rate specified in their contract with the Heritage Health plan.

Previously approved transplants must be honored through the end date of the original authorization.

**2) Services that now require new authorizations**  
When the Heritage Health Plan requires prior authorization for services that didn't require authorization within fee-for-service or the previous plan, the plans must allow providers to submit requests for retroactive determination of medical necessity for dates of service between January 1, 2017 and February 28, 2017. The plans must make the determination of medical necessity using the same criteria as if the request was submitted prior to the service being rendered.

If you have any questions about this advisory, please contact Kim McClintick at [kimberly.mcclintick@nebraska.gov](mailto:kimberly.mcclintick@nebraska.gov). Health plans should also copy their contract manager.