



**Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Health Plan Advisory No. 17-05**

DATE: May 12, 2017

TO: Nebraska Heritage Health Plans

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

BY: Heather Leschinsky, Deputy Director Delivery Systems

RE: Initial Prior Authorization Time Periods for Certain Behavioral Health Services

This Health Plan Advisory is being issued to provide direction to Heritage Health plans regarding the duration of initial prior authorizations for certain Behavioral Health services.

Effective immediately, when the services require prior authorization by the health plan, Heritage Health plans should approve the following initial authorization periods for the following services:

- 30 day authorization:
 - Therapeutic Community for Substance Use Disorder
 - Intermediate Residential for Substance Use Disorder
 - Dual Disorder Residential (Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder)
 - Intensive Out Patient (IOP)
 - Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)
 - Therapeutic Group Home.
- 60 day authorization:
 - Secure Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation
 - Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation
- 90 day authorization:
 - Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
 - Day Rehabilitation
 - Community Supports
- 244 units authorization (each unit is a 15 minute time period):
 - Multi Systemic Therapy (MST)

Each Heritage Health Plan has the flexibility to exceed these authorization time periods when determined to be medically necessary.

If you have any questions about this advisory, please contact Lori Lewis at Lori.Lewis@nebraska.gov. Health plans should also copy their contract manager.