



January 30, 2024

SFY 2024 – DBH Guidance Document #3

Amended – Suspension of Service Authorizations for Specific State Plan Services, 1115 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and 1115 Behavioral Health (BH) Waiver Services

Background

On July 31, 2023, the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) issued SFY 2024 DBH Guidance Document #1 – Guidance Document for Suspension of Service Authorizations for Specific Services. This document announced the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval of the 1135 flexibilities under the Alaska disaster State Plan Amendment (dSPA) that allowed the DBH to suspend service authorizations for certain State Plan services, as outlined in 7 AAC 135.040; effective May 12, 2023, through May 11, 2024.

On August 23, 2023, the DBH issued SFY 2024 DBH Guidance Document #2 – Guidance Document for Suspension of Service Authorizations for 1115 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and 1115 Behavioral Health (BH) Waiver Services. This document announced an expansion of the dSPA 1135 flexibilities to include suspension of service authorization requirements for all 1115 SUD and 1115 BH services; effective May 12, 2023 through the earlier of the adoption of the then-in-progress 1115 waiver regulation revision package or the expiration of the dSPA flexibilities on May 11, 2024.

Purpose

This document serves to amend the Guidance Document #2 language describing the termination date for 1115 SUD and 1115 BH service authorization requirements. Although the recently adopted 1115 waiver regulatory package is effective beginning February 2, 2024, DBH has elected to continue the service authorization suspension flexibilities for all 1115 SUD and 1115 BH services through the remainder of the dSPA period.

Guidance

Effective May 12, 2023, providers are not required to submit service authorization requests for any State Plan services, as outlined in 7 AAC 135.040, 1115 SUD or 1115 BH services, **through May 11, 2024.**

Providers must ensure that services provided are medically necessary and align to the requirements outlined in 7 AAC 135.100 – 7 AAC 135.350. Medical necessity must be documented in all assessments, treatment plans and progress notes as indicated.

Questions regarding this guidance may be directed to mpassunit@alaska.gov; in the Subject Line please note: Amended DSPA Suspended SA Guidance.