

	<b>Behavioral Health Level of Care TCHP Guideline</b>	
<b>Guideline #</b> 6660	<b>Categories</b> Clinical → Care Coordination	<b>This Guideline Applies To:</b> Texas Children's Health Plan
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**GUIDELINE STATEMENT:**

Texas Children's Health Plan (TCHP) performs authorization of all behavioral health and substance use disorder acute inpatient admissions, residential treatment services, partial hospitalization services, and intensive outpatient treatment.

**DEFINITIONS:****GUIDELINE**

1. All requests for prior authorization for behavioral health level of care services are received via online submission, fax, phone or mail by the Utilization Management Department and processed during normal business hours.
2. TCHP requires clinical documentation to be provided to support the medical necessity of the inpatient care, including but not limited to: emergency room notes, admission and clinical notes, pertinent labs, consults, and treatment plans.
3. TCHP covers medically necessary behavioral health and substance use disorder level of care services when the services meet accepted standards of medical necessity based on InterQual® Criteria.
4. All requests that do not meet the guidelines referenced here will be referred to a Behavioral Health Medical Director or their Physician Reviewer designee for review and the Denial Policy will be followed.
5. Preauthorization is based on medical necessity and not a guarantee of benefits or eligibility. Even if preauthorization is approved for treatment or a particular service, that authorization applies only to the medical necessity of treatment or service. All services are subject to benefit limitations and exclusions. Providers are subject to State and Federal Regulatory compliance and failure to comply may result in retrospective audit and potential financial recoupment.

**REFERENCES:****Government Agency, Medical Society, and Other Publications:**

- Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual Volume 2: Behavioral Health and Case Management Services Handbook [Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual | TMHP](#)
- Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Resilience and Recovery, Utilization Management Guidelines: Child and Adolescent Services, updated 2016
- Texas Department of State Health Services, Texas Resilience and Recovery, Utilization Management Guidelines: Adult Mental Health Services, effective April 2017

<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
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