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**Work First New Jersey**

**Substance Abuse/Behavioral Health (WFNJ SAI/BHI)**

**PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION AND MEDICATION MONITORING POLICY**

Psychiatric Evaluation is provided by: MD or DO Certified in Addiction Psychiatry, Board Certified Psychiatrist who is a member of ASAM or experienced with addiction, Board Eligible and ASAM/ABAM Certified Psychiatrist, MD or DO Board Eligible for Psychiatry with 5 years of addiction experience and ASAM membership, ASAM/ABAM Certified MD or DO with 5 years of co-occurring mental health disorders experience, Certified Nurse Practitioner-Psychiatric and Mental Health (CNP-PMH), Advanced Practical Nurse-Psychiatric and Mental Health (APN-PMH), and Physician's Assistant (PA) w/Psychiatric and Mental Health certification.

A psychiatric evaluation can be provided as clinically warranted at any time throughout the course of a client’s treatment. This service must be preauthorized by the WFNJ SAI/BHI Care Coordinator (CC) for a total of ten (10) units of “psych testing” (Z3356) per psychiatric evaluation. A follow-up consultation with the psychiatrist may only be preauthorized if the Treatment Provider forwards to the CC a copy of the results of the psychiatric evaluation. For example, the CC may preauthorize a psychiatric evaluation without any documentation from the provider but cannot authorize a subsequent follow-up visit unless they have received documentation of the initial evaluation.

CCs may preauthorize five (5) units of psych testing (Z3356) for subsequent medication monitoring visits with a psychiatrist or Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for an additional 5 months, totaling 6 months of medication monitoring. Medication monitoring units may not be preauthorized in the same month as the original psychiatric evaluation. Subsequent medication monitoring cannot be preauthorized unless the CC has received documentation of the initial psychiatric evaluation and summaries of each subsequent medication monitoring visits. Follow-up documentation should be in the form of a progress or service note as would appear in the client's chart.

CCs may not approve medication monitoring sessions (5 units Z3356) beyond 5 months at the same level of care. If it is determined that a client will need medication monitoring beyond the initial 6 month period, at the same level of care, the CC may present the case to the WFNJ SAI/BHI Clinical Director for approval of additional sessions. If the Clinical Director agrees that the client will need continuing medication monitoring the CC may preauthorize one (1) unit of psych testing (Z3356) for up to an additional 6 months, as clinically warranted. The medication monitoring visits cannot be preauthorized unless the CC has received documentation of all previous medication-monitoring visits and documentation will be required for all subsequent medication-monitoring sessions.

In the event a client requires an emergency psychiatric evaluation during non-business hours and the provider is not able to contact the CC for preauthorization, CCs may retroactively preauthorize these services only if the treatment provider contacts the CC or supervisor within 24 hours of service provision and if all other requirements as described above are met.

Please also note that providers who bill for the above-named services based on a WFNJ SAI/BHI Payment Authorization (PA), may not also bill regular Medicaid for the same services.

One (1) complete psychiatric evaluation may be preauthorized for more profound co-occurring clients admitted to short-term residential treatment in the event that the severity of their psychiatric condition will prevent or inhibit their ability to participate in treatment. Not all co-occurring clients should be preauthorized for a psychiatric evaluation while in short-term residential treatment; this service is reserved strictly to assist those individuals whose mental health symptoms will impede treatment participation only.

The WFNJ SAI/BHI may authorize five (5) psych testing units (Z3356) for medication monitoring to clients who are currently in short-term residential treatment and have already had one full psychiatric evaluation while in treatment at that level of care. The CC must have received a copy of the psychiatric evaluation and the medication monitoring units must be preauthorized by the CC in order to ensure payment. This service is reserved for those clients transferring to another residential treatment program in need of a 30-day supply of medication only. The purpose of this “medication bridge” is to assist clients facing lengthy waiting lists to see psychiatrists in most programs.