

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana, Inc.	DEPARTMENT: Clinical Operations – Behavioral Health
	LINE OF BUSINESS: UHC C&S Louisiana
POLICY TITLE: <u>Certification of Need for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs)</u>	POLICY NUMBER:
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I. SCOPE:

This policy applies to members whose benefit coverage is provided through the Louisiana Medicaid plan and whose behavioral/mental health benefits are managed by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana (UHCCP LA).

II. PURPOSE:

This policy reflects the requirements governing the certification of need (CON) for psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) as described in the contract between the State of Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and UnitedHealthcare of Louisiana, regulatory requirements of the State of Louisiana, the Medicaid State Plan and waivers, and the court-ordered requirements of Chisholm v. Gee and Wells v. Gee.

III. DEFINITION(S):

Refer to the UnitedHealthcare Community and State Standard Definitions.

See also the National Medicaid policy, *National Policy Definitions List: Medicaid*.

IV. POLICY¹:

- A. **UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana (UHC LA) complies with the requirements set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations at 42 C.F.R. Part 441, Subpart D.**
- B. **UHC LA ensures Licensed Mental Health Professionals (LMHPs) are included in the team responsible for certification and recertification of PRTF services in Louisiana. This includes a face-to-face assessment by an LMHP or a telephonic/video consultation with an LMHP who has had a face-to-face interview with the child/youth, in addition to the recommendations of a team specified at 42 C.F.R. §441.156.**

¹ Except where noted, policy provisions are from the contract.

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- C. UHC LA may use an LMHP/team composed of UHC LA staff or may subcontract with an LMHP. To ensure the team has knowledge of the ambulatory resources available to the youth and the youth's situation, UHC LA ensures that the team is assembled by a subcontract in the child's/youth's parish of residence or adjacent parish (if not in state custody) or the child's/youth's parish or adjacent parish of responsibility (if in state custody).
- D. Recertification occurs every 60 calendar days. For the PRTF screens to be complete, the team meets and rules out other community based options. This does not apply to other inpatient screens.
- E. In addition to certifying the need, UHC LA:
- a. Is responsible for tracking the member's authorization period for PRTF stays and providing notification to the responsible party when a recertification is due.
 - b. Ensures that PRTF certification, including the independent certification, is forwarded to the admitting facility.
 - i. Upon completion of the screen, if the PRTF is approved, within 48 hours, UHC LA notifies in writing the provider requesting the certification of the results, the member/guardian and, with member guardian consent, the referring party requesting the PRTF services on behalf of the youth. If approved, UHC LA, in consultation with the member's guardian and referring party, locates a PRTF provider appropriate to meet the member's needs with availability to admit the member.
 - ii. If denied, UHC LA notifies the provider requesting the certification immediately and within 48 hours, provides written notification to the provider requesting the certification of the results, the member/guardian and, with member/guardian consent, the referring party requesting the PRTF services on behalf of the youth. The notification includes:
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1. Information on alternative community services that may meet the member's needs to ensure health and safety;
 2. Information on available providers of those services;
 3. The right of the member to appeal; and
 4. The process to appeal.
- c. For youth pending release from a secure setting for whom a PRTF is being requested, UHC LA coordinates the completion of the screen and the CON prior to the youth's release if it is anticipated that the youth will be re-linked to UHC LA following release.
 - d. Generates a prior authorization for each PRTF admission within 48 hours of completion of the screen.
 - e. Accurately determines admissions to and discharges from PRTFs and performs PRTF-specific eligibility functions.
 - f. Works with the Medicaid Fiscal Intermediary to determine retroactive eligibility and assignment, when applicable.
 - g. Maintains near real time bed utilization/availability and manages a waiting list for PRTF placement including out-of-state replacements.
- F. In Care Coordination, Continuity of Care, and Care Transition situations, UHC LA does not deny continuation for residential treatment (e.g., TGH or PRTF) for failure to meet medical necessity unless it can provide the service through an in-network or out-of-network provider for a lower level of care.
 - G. When an accrediting organization provides guidance that differs from State requirements, UHC LA may apply the accrediting organization's guidance when it is beneficial and/or less restrictive to the enrollee.²


VI. RELATED POLICIES AND MATERIALS:

² UCH LA Standard

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- **42 C.F.R. Part 441, Subpart D**
- **42 C.F.R. §441.156**

X. APPROVED BY:


 José Calderón-Abbo, M.D.
 Medical Director for Behavioral Health
 Louisiana Community and State.

09/03/2019

 UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Louisiana Date
 Behavioral Health Medical Director

P&P Revision Control Log

Revision Date	Summary of Revision(s) (Bullets what has changed, Include Page #)	Reason(s) for Revision	Approved by QMC
September, 2019	Policy created		

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