



# First Health Services Corporation®

A Coventry Health Care Company

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## QUALIS HEALTH INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS

As of January 1, 2008, Qualis Health assumed responsibility for Health Care Management (HCM) functions for behavioral health services for the State of Alaska. Patients receiving ongoing inpatient behavioral health services during the transition period saw their HCM-approved prior authorizations (PAs) ended. New PAs were then created by Qualis. These patients now have two PA records on file with Alaska Medical Assistance.

Previously, when a patient was receiving ongoing inpatient behavioral health (RPTC) services, only one PA record would exist and the End Date on the PA would be extended if the patient was a continuing patient. Upon discharge, the PA record End Date indicated the discharge day of the patient which was not counted as a billable day. Since some patients may have two PA records on file, an internal process was established to ensure payment of the full hospitalization period when the following conditions are met:

- the claim is for an ongoing patient,
- the provider has a HCM PA (beginning with the numbers 77.....) for the patient, **and**
- the provider has a Qualis Health PA (beginning with the numbers 78.....) for the same patient with the PA begin date starting the day after the HCM PA end date

If all three of the above circumstances exist, providers can bill for all days on the HCM PA record by indicating the HCM PA End Date as the Through Date on their claim. There is no change to the Patient Status and Type of Bill Code used to submit the claim. The patient status code of 30 (still a patient) and the interim type of bill code (0112 or 0113, whichever is appropriate) would still be used on the claim submission. The internal PA process will allow these claims to pay for the final day of the HCM PA record and thereby prevent the underpayment of one day of hospitalization.

If you have questions, please contact First Health Services Provider Inquiry Unit at (907) 644-6800 or (800) 770-5650 (toll-free in Alaska).