


GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 18-20

TO: District of Columbia Medicaid Providers

FROM: Claudia Schlosberg, J.D. 
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: May 29, 2018

SUBJECT: REVISED: Prior Authorization Process for Therapeutic Abortions under the District of Columbia Fee-for Services (FFS) Medicaid program

The purpose of this transmittal is to inform the DC Medicaid medical providers of a new process for obtaining authorization for therapeutic abortions. An authorization is not necessary for the treatment of spontaneous abortions.

The District of Columbia Medicaid program follows the Hyde Amendment for the authorization of therapeutic abortions. There are only three (3) instances for which the District will reimburse Medicaid providers to provide abortions to Medicaid beneficiaries. Those three (3) instances are: (1) when the pregnancy will endanger the woman's life; (2) when the pregnancy results from rape; or (3) when the pregnancy results from incest.

Effective June 1, 2018, all requests for therapeutic abortion services shall be submitted to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for prior authorization in order to receive Medicaid reimbursement. The current QIO is Qualis Health, Inc. The submission should include:

1. a completed 719A form,
2. verification of pregnancy,
3. verification of the length of gestational period, and
4. clinical justification to terminate the pregnancy.

The required documentation shall be faxed to **(800) 731-2314**. The QIO will respond expeditiously to the request. The telephone number for Qualis is (800) 251-8890.

For questions regarding this transmittal, please contact Cavella Bishop, Program Manager, Clinicians, Pharmacy, and Acute Provider Services, at (202) 724-8936 or cavella.bishop@dc.gov.

cc: Medical Society of the District of Columbia
DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Care Association
DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers