


GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director

Transmittal # 18-30

TO: District of Columbia Medicaid Providers

FROM: Melisa Byrd 
Senior Deputy Director/State Medicaid Director

DATE: October 29, 2018

SUBJECT: **Quality Improvement Organization for the District of Columbia**

The purpose of this transmittal is to inform you that the District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) has renewed the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) contract with Qualis Health (Qualis) to conduct utilization review and quality improvement activities for the District's fee-for-service (FFS) Medicaid program. Over the next five (5) years, Qualis will assist the District in ensuring that FFS beneficiaries receive appropriate and necessary care, including the level and quality of care administered, through prospective, concurrent and retrospective reviews of medical services. This transmittal summarizes and highlights the new and existing review activities that Qualis will conduct on behalf of DHCF.

Utilization Review Overview

Prior Authorization Reviews:

a. Acute Care Hospitals

- Qualis will review each elective admission, direct admissions, and transfers to all acute care hospitals. These reviews will also include Gastric Bypass surgery and organ transplants.
- Inpatient admissions through the emergency room do not require authorization.
- Subsequent eligibility admissions that originate from the emergency room, no longer need to be submitted to Qualis for a retrospective authorization.
- Obstetrical deliveries do not require authorization.

b. Specialty Hospitals

- Qualis will conduct reviews prior to an inpatient admission to a specialty hospital in accordance with service specific criteria for: Long Term Acute Care Hospitals (LTAC), Rehabilitation Hospitals, HSC Pediatric Center (or other pediatric specialty hospital), and Psychiatric Institute of Washington (or other Institute for Mental Disease).

c. Selected Outpatient Medical and Surgical Procedures

- Qualis will continue to review requests for medical and surgical outpatient procedures that require a prior authorization.

d. Dental and Orthodontic Procedures

- Qualis will continue to review requests for dental and orthodontic procedures that require a prior authorization.

e. Eyewear and Contact Lenses

- Qualis will continue to review requests for eyewear and contact lens that require a prior authorization.

f. Specific Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Medical Supplies (DME/POS)

- Qualis will continue to review requests for DME/POS that require a prior authorization.

g. Hospice Services

- Qualis will continue to review requests for Inpatient and Outpatient Hospice Services that require a prior authorization.

h. Home Health services

- Qualis will continue to review requests for Skilled Nursing, Private Duty, and Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech and Language Services that require a prior authorization.

i. TEFRA/Katie Beckett

- Qualis will continue to process TEFRA/Katie Beckett level of care reviews for children with development disabilities.

j. Hearing Aids

- Qualis will no longer review requests for hearing aids and their associated codes; prior authorization for hearing aid services will no longer be required.

Long Term Care Reviews

a. Level of Care (LOC)

- Qualis will continue to conduct LOC determinations for beneficiaries in an Intermediate Care Facility/Intermediate Intellectual Disability (ICF/IID), and an annual LOC for those beneficiaries residing in Out-of-State (OOS) Nursing Facilities (over 30 miles from the District of Columbia.)

b. Nursing Home Reviews

- Qualis will continue to conduct **Medical Eligibility and Continued Stay reviews** for beneficiaries residing in a District of Columbia and a Maryland and Virginia neighboring county nursing facility.
- The initial review will occur within the first one hundred and eighty (180) days and annually thereafter.

c. Person-Centered Individual Service Review

- Qualis will continue to create Prior Authorizations (PAs) for the Person-Centered Individual Service Review plans for all Elderly and Persons with Disabilities (EPD) Waiver Services covered under the program.

d. Plan of Care (POC)

- Qualis will continue to review the Plans of Care (POC) to ensure that the Health Home Agency (HHA) has the required documentation in the subsequent POC.

e. Nursing Home Add-on Reviews

- Qualis will continue to review and prior-authorize add-on payments for **Ventilator Care, Behaviorally Complex Care, and Bariatric Care** for beneficiaries residing in Nursing Facilities in accordance with the District's revised prospective payment system.

f. Long-Term Care Assessment-Reconsideration Review

- Starting on November 1, 2018, Qualis will no longer conduct Long-Term Care Assessment-Reconsideration Reviews.

g. Intellectual and Developmental Disability Waiver

- Qualis will continue to generate PAs for Intellectual and Developmental Disability Waiver services.

h. Out-of-State Nursing Home Placements

- Qualis will continue to conduct OOS Nursing home placements.

i. State Plan Personal Care Aide (PCA) and Adult Day Health Plan (ADHP) Services

- Qualis will continue to issue PAs for State Plan PCA and ADHP services.

j. Nursing Home Quality Improvement Collaborative

- Qualis will establish and maintain a District-wide Nursing Home Quality Improvement Collaborative. The QIO will provide training and technical assistance to the DC Nursing Homes.

Qualis Contact Information:

- To contact Qualis by telephone, please call (800)251-8890.
- You may obtain assistance in registering for the Qualis Health Provider Portal by contacting your organization's Qualis web portal administrator, or by emailing dcmedicaid@qualishealth.org.

If you have any questions about this transmittal, please contact **Cavella Bishop**, Program Manager, Clinicians, Pharmacy, and Acute Provider Services at 202-724-8936, 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