



PROVIDER ALERT

Level of Care Guidelines Updates

December 1, 2019

Alert Summary: Clarification of the Level of Care Guidelines (LOGCs)

Dear Provider:

Following are a list of clarifications on LOGCs:

- 1) The Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS), the Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII) and the Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII) are nationally recognized tools that the Optum Idaho Utilization Management (UM) Team will be using when evaluating clinical criteria decisions and determining medical necessity for **ONLY** Mental Health Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) and the Mental Health Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP). These tools are strictly being utilized as UM tools for IOP and PHP as these two services have national standards rather than state specific standards. These tools will not be used to determine a diagnosis or functional impairment for any participant; they are only being utilized for UM purposes.
- 2) Effective dates:
 - Mental Health IOP Adults 12/14/19
 - Mental Health IOP Children and Adolescents 1/31/2020
 - Mental Health PHP Adults 1/1/2020
 - Mental Health PHP Children and Adolescents 1/31/2020
- 3) Providers are not expected to use these tools, but are welcome to review the training and guidance being provided to the Optum UM team if they would like to understand the process and tools for utilization management. For additional information, please visit [Provider Express](#) > Clinical Resources > Guidelines and Policies > Adoption of LOCUS CASII ECSII.
- 4) The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tool and Child and Family Team (CFT) Level of Care Guidelines (LOGC) have been removed since there is no admission, continued stay or discharge criteria for members to access a CANS or CFT. All children are required to have a CANS to support treatment planning and to make recommendations for an array of services based on the severity and complexity of their symptoms and needs. Optum Idaho UM Team utilizes the information providers submit to request services from the Comprehensive Diagnostic Assessment (CDA), CANS and other relevant information to make clinical criteria decisions.
- 5) For all other services, providers will continue to utilize the Optum Idaho LOGC which are posted on the [Optum Idaho website](#) and [Provider Express](#).
- 6) Background on Optum's adoption of the LOCUS/CASII/ECSII for level of care guidance was included in the [provider alert](#) dated September 6, 2019 titled "Adoption of LOCUS/CASII/ECSII for

Guidance on Clinical Criteria Decisions in the Treatment of Mental Health Conditions”. The following excerpt is from that alert:

Externally validated: L/C/E criteria were created and are updated based on the changing landscape of evidence informed care, market and regulatory considerations, and feedback from stakeholders across the care system.

Common Language Drives Improved Care: The use of these guidelines creates a common language for providers with payers, regulators and other stakeholders of the care system, which results in a clearer understanding of patient needs.

The six dimensions provide a more holistic view of acuity and chronicity of behavioral condition, thereby promoting more appropriate care for patients and a better overall experience.

Additional information is located at optumidaho.com. Please contact your Regional Network Manager if you would like further clarification on these topics.

Thank you,
The Optum Idaho Team