

Provider Notice

To: MHIP Providers, Substance Use Non-Hospital Rehab/Detox Providers
From: Tony L. Byler, MD, Medical Director, PerformCare *Tony L. Byler MD*
Date: March 19, 2020
Subject: Discharge Planning

It has come to our attention that some providers may be encountering difficulty identifying appropriate after care following mental health inpatient and/or SUD Detox/Rehab. Due to COVID-19, it is currently more difficult than usual to make outpatient MH or SUD appointments including appointments to obtain needed medications.

If such difficulties are encountered with our members please discuss them with their Care Manager as we would be happy to try to assist you in identifying resources. Please also consider that for most medications it might be possible to set the member up for an appointment with their PCP as an interim measure until they could see their psychiatrist.

I would also like to ask you to consider encouraging your psychiatrists to keep these current difficulties in setting appointments in mind when considering how much medication and how many refills they are willing to prescribe at the time of discharge. As a prescriber, I understand that this decision must be tailored to each member and even each medication prescribed to a given member, but your help in providing sufficient medication to members to bridge them to their next appointment is essential.

Thank you for your help in this difficult time.