

Updated Only for Logo and Branding

Provider Notice

To: All HealthChoices Providers

Date: January 13, 2003

Subject: **AD 03 003 Blood Alcohol Levels and Level of Care Determinations**
Originally Issued as PROVIDER INFO AD03-003 Administrative Update Blood Alcohol Levels and LOC Determination

I. Blood Alcohol Levels

PerformCare abides by rules and regulations set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as applicable to HealthChoices. Note that hospital detoxification services do not require prior authorization. However it may not be possible to assess the need for other levels of care until the Member no longer meets the Pennsylvania standards for intoxication.

1.1 Definitions:

1.11 **Intoxication** - Legal intoxication in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is considered to be a blood alcohol level of 0.10 (.08 per subsequent change in law) and above. Blood alcohol levels decrease at an average rate of 0.02 per hour, or one alcohol drink per hour, once consumption of alcohol is discontinued

1.2 Procedure:

PerformCare will gather all relevant information when there is a request for services for a member, which will include presenting problem, level of care being requested, treating physician, and name and title of individual requesting authorization for treatment.

When it has been determined that the member has a blood alcohol level greater than 0.10, PerformCare will request the exact time when the blood alcohol level was taken. PerformCare will calculate the approximate time that the Member's blood alcohol level will be at 0.10 and request that another blood alcohol level be taken to confirm a blood alcohol level of 0.10.

When the Member's blood alcohol level is below 0.10, the Clinical Care Manager will make a determination based on the clinical needs of the Member that were presented.

During the time when waiting for the blood alcohol level to lower, if the Member should begin to experience withdrawal symptoms that are related to the alcohol use, then the Clinical Care Manager will authorize the use of detoxification services to meet the immediate needs of the Member.

No services beyond detoxification will be considered or authorized until the Member's blood alcohol level is below 0.10.