

WESTERN HEALTH ADVANTAGE PLAN Notice to Enrollees

Western Health Advantage will change its mental health and substance use disorder benefits starting on January 1, 2016. A federal law, The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, and Covered California rules require these changes.

The changes listed below start January 1, 2016. This information updates the benefits described in an evidence of coverage (EOC) that you will receive for 2016. The EOC is a written guide to the services the health plan covers and what you pay for services.

Changes to Cost-Sharing

The amount you pay (also known as cost-sharing) may have changed for outpatient mental health and substance abuse disorder services. (Intensive Outpatient and Partial Hospitalization Services changed from Inpatient Services to Outpatient Services.) Note that the changes do not increase cost-sharing. They either keep cost-sharing the same or decrease it.

Cost- Sharing for Mental Health Disorders and Substance Abuse: Outpatient Services (Intensive Outpatient and Partial Hospitalization)		
Large Group Plan	Current	As of 1/1/2016
Premier 15A	None	None
Western 1500	None	None

Changes to Prior Authorization Requirements

The requirements to obtain prior authorization for some mental health and substance abuse disorder services have changed. This information will be in your 2016 EOC.

Changes to the EOC for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder Services

Please contact WHA at 888.563.2250 or visit mywha.org to obtain an updated 2016 EOC and for more information on the EOC changes listed below.

WHA has revised the text in all EOCs to clarify the types of inpatient and outpatient services and treatment that WHA provides for mental health and substance abuse disorder conditions. The most significant text changes can be found in the following EOC sections:

- Behavioral Health Services section: the types of covered inpatient services, outpatient services, and office visits for mental health and substance abuse disorder services have been listed.
- Prior Authorization Requirements: the listing of covered mental health and substance abuse disorder services that require prior authorization and the process for obtaining prior authorization has been clarified.
- Definitions: the definition of "Prior Authorization" has been revised.

Questions

If you have questions about mental health and substance use disorder benefits, or how to access them, please contact WHA at 888.563.2250.