



North Sound BH-ASO Memorandum 2020-03

DATE: March 26th, 2020
TO: North Sound BH-ASO Crisis Service & Inpatient Providers
FROM: Margaret Rojas, Assistant Director
RE: Outpatient Resources for Non-Medicaid Individuals on ITA Holds

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, North Sound BH-ASO seeks to aid hospitals and E&Ts in freeing up beds and improving flow-through for individuals on ITA holds. Funding for outpatient behavioral health services is available for individuals who:

- Do not have active Medicaid benefits, and
- Are currently on an ITA hold at a hospital or E&T or are referred by a crisis services provider, and
- Are clinically appropriate for discharge.

North Sound BH-ASO will enter into single case agreements with providers who do not have a contract with North Sound BH-ASO for medically necessary behavioral health outpatient services.

North Sound BH-ASO wishes to support as many non-Medicaid individuals as possible in receiving outpatient behavioral health support. This includes those who are uninsured, have private coverage or Medicare benefits that do not cover adequate outpatient follow-up services, or are in a spenddown period for Medicaid.

Referral Process for COVID-19 Outpatient Care Funding:

1. Hospital staff, E&T staff, or crisis providers contact North Sound BH-ASO's Clinical Oversight Team with referrals. Be prepared to discuss current presentation and recommendations for outpatient care.
 - a. North Sound BH-ASO clinical staff may request clinical documentation demonstrating the individual's behavioral health service needs.
2. If outpatient services are indicated, North Sound BH-ASO staff will attempt to make payment arrangements for outpatient care.
3. Once payment arrangements have been made:
 - a. Hospitals or E&Ts may proceed with discharge, including acquiring an LRO if necessary and appropriate.
 - b. Providers or North Sound BH-ASO staff will contact individuals referred by crisis providers with instructions on how to begin receiving care.

There is no guarantee that North Sound BH-ASO will be able to find an outpatient provider.

Cc: County Coordinators