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North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, LLC

Section 1500 – Clinical: Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) Priority Populations and Waiting Lists

Authorizing Source: HCA Contract

Approved by: Executive Director Date: 12/31/2019 Signature:

POLICY # 1590.00

SUBJECT: SUBSTANCE ABUSE BLOCK GRANT (SABG) PRIORITY POPULATIONS AND WAITING LISTS

PURPOSE

To define how the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) services are administered and prioritized for SABG priority populations.

POLICY

North Sound BH-ASO utilizes SABG funds within available resources to provide services to the SABG priority populations of eligible individuals. These available resources are expended for optional and required services as delineated in the Health Care Authority (HCA)-approved North Sound BH-ASO SABG Project Plan. All treatment program services provided must meet medical necessity criteria according to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 182-500-0070. North Sound BH-ASO service providers shall comply with contract requirements for SABG priority populations and waiting lists to determine which individuals are given prioritized access to SABG funded services.

PROCEDURES

Individuals eligible for SABG funded services must be ineligible for Medicaid and belong to one of the priority populations listed below.

SABG services will be provided in the following priority order to those who are:

1. Pregnant individuals injecting drugs;
2. Pregnant individuals with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD);
3. Women with dependent children; and
4. Injecting drug users.

The continuing priority listing of additional populations is in no particular order:

1. Postpartum women for up to one (1) year regardless of pregnancy outcome;
2. Individuals transitioning from residential care to outpatient care;
3. Youth; and
4. Offenders as defined in RCW 70.96.350.

Services shall not be denied to eligible individuals regardless of the individual's drugs of choice; the fact the individual is taking medically prescribed medications; and the fact that a person is using over the counter nicotine cessation medications or actively participating in a nicotine replacement therapy regimen.

When an individual is assessed by a Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP) and determined to be experiencing a substance use disorder as defined in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) and could benefit from SUD treatment services, American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) level of care must be determined for the individual and applied utilizing the North Sound BH-ASO Level of Care Guidelines.

Medical Necessity

Medical necessity is required for all services provided. Medical necessity means the requested service is reasonably calculated to prevent, diagnose, correct, cure, alleviate, or prevent the worsening of conditions in the recipient that endanger life, cause pain and suffering, result in illness or infirmity, threaten to cause or aggravate a handicap, or cause physical deformity or malfunction.

Authorizations are provided based on the North Sound BH-ASO Level of Care Guidelines.

Interim Services are provided to Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW) and Individuals Using Intravenous Drugs (IUID), who are currently waiting to enter a treatment program and shall be provided within 48 hours of seeking treatment. Interim Services are provided in order to reduce the adverse health effects of substance abuse, promote the health of the individual and reduce the risk of disease transmission. Such services are provided until the individual is admitted to a treatment program. Services include:

1. Referral for prenatal care for a pregnant woman and counseling on the effects of alcohol and drug use on the fetus;
2. Brief screening activities for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV);
3. Development of a service plan, individual or group contacts to assist the individual directly or by way of referral in meeting the individual's basic needs;
4. Updates to advise the individual of treatment availability; and
5. Information to prepare the individual for treatment, counseling, education and, referral regarding HIV and tuberculosis (TB) education, if necessary, a referral to treatment for HIV and TB

Admission to treatment services for Individuals Using Intravenous Drugs shall be provided within 14 days after the individual makes the request, regardless of funding source.

If there is no treatment capacity within 14 days of the initial individual request, the provider shall offer or refer the individual to Interim Services within 48 hours of the initial request for treatment services. If no treatment capacity is available, the provider should have up to 120 days after the request to admit the individual into treatment.

A pregnant Individual who is unable to access residential treatment due to lack of capacity and needs withdrawal management, can be referred to a Chemical Using Pregnant (CUP) program for admission, typically within 24 hours.

SABG funds are utilized for the following SUD services when medically necessary:

1. Withdrawal management, 3.7 level of care;
2. Secure detoxification services under Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA);
3. In-community assessment;
4. Interim services;
5. In-community outpatient treatment 1.0 and 2.1 levels of care;
6. Opiate substitution treatment (OST) 1.0 level of care;

7. SUD residential treatment 3.5, 3.3, 3.1 levels of care;
8. Urinalysis testing;
9. Residential room and board;
10. Medical necessity does not apply to:
 - a. Childcare services;
 - b. Therapeutic interventions for children with mother in SUD residential treatment for PPW; and
 - c. Transportation costs to and from treatment.

North Sound BH-ASO service providers shall implement and maintain SABG waiting lists and provide interim services for members of SABG priority population in priority order, who are eligible but for whom SUD treatment services are not available due to limitations in provider capacity or available resources.

Reporting is required monthly using the reporting form provided by North Sound BH-ASO. Once the service provider reaches 90% of capacity to admit and provide treatment to individuals (not including Interim Services), the provider shall immediately notify North Sound BH-ASO. Reporting forms can be found at: <https://nsbhaso.org/for-providers/forms>

SABG services will align with the regional plan approved by the North Sound BH-ASO Advisory Board.

Providers receiving SABG funding will be reviewed annually by their peers with expertise in substance use disorder treatment. Providers will also be required to participate in peer reviews when requested by North Sound BH-ASO and/or Health Care Authority.

ATTACHMENTS

None