

**South Carolina**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
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May 21, 2009

Hosp  
MHRC

## MEDICAID BULLETIN

**TO: Child - Placing State Agencies and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Providers**

**SUBJECT: POLICY CLARIFICATION - CALOCUS**

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide clarification to policy released in the March 19, 2009 bulletin that provided a general overview of new statewide requirements for placement of children in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF). As previously stated, effective July 1, 2009, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will require use of the Child and Adolescent Level of Care Utilization System (CALOCUS) to determine the Level of Care (LOC) for all initial admissions and re-assessments for continued treatment. Child-placing agencies must ensure that the CALOCUS is administered for all children 0-21, prior to admission, to determine if placement in a PRTF is appropriate. Beneficiaries who are residents of the facility as of June 30, 2009 must have the CALOCUS administered by the six-month anniversary date of their placement.

Policy will remain as indicated in the March 19, 2009 bulletin with the following clarifications regarding LOC and reassessment requirements. In addition, the Psychiatric Hospital Services manual will be updated to reflect the CALOCUS policy requirements.

### **LOC Requirements**

Under the new pre-admission requirements, children receiving a CALOCUS score of 5 or above will meet LOC for PRTF placement. Children receiving a CALOCUS score of 4 may also meet the LOC, provided there is sufficient documentation clearly indicating more intensive services are needed. However, the CALOCUS score alone (5 or above, or 4 with supporting documentation) is not sufficient for placement. The Certification of Need process, as well as the CALOCUS, must indicate the need for PRTF level of care. It is always preferable to keep children in their communities when this is a viable option; clinical professionals should determine if enhanced community services could be provided to support the child/family as an alternative to placement. If a child does not meet any of the above criteria, Medicaid cannot be billed by a PRTF.

**Re-assessments**

LOC re-assessments must be obtained at a minimum of every six months, or as necessary, to determine the need for continued treatment. Re-assessments shall be completed by qualified professionals of the **child placing agency or its designee**. Re-assessment results, along with any other pertinent documentation, must be shared with the child-placing agency and/or the PRTF provider within 10 business days of the CALOCUS to be placed in the clinical record. It is the responsibility of the child-placing agency to ensure this timeline is met.

Medicaid will no longer be responsible for payment if the child no longer meets the PRTF LOC requirements.

Your continued support of the South Carolina Medicaid Program is appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this bulletin, you may contact your program representative at (803) 898-2565.

/S/  
Emma Forkner  
Director

EF/mwfj

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