

ATTENTION MASSHEALTH RECIPIENTS !

NEW PRIOR AUTHORIZATION RULES FOR PHYSICAL/OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, AND SPEECH THERAPY

Beginning on April 15, 2004, Prior Authorization will now be required if you need *more* than 8 Occupational Therapy visits, 8 Physical Therapy visits, or 15 Speech/language Therapy visits. This means that to get more than these numbers of visits, you and your doctor will need to get approval from the Division of Medical Assistance first.

What if I (or my child) need more than 8 Physical/Occupational Therapy visits, or more than 15 Speech /Language Visits?

These limits only refer to the number of visits you may have *before* Prior Authorization is required. For example, if you need more than 8 visits, before your eighth visit, ask your doctor to fill out a Prior Authorization form.

What if I have had visits without Prior Authorization before April 15- will these count towards my limit?

No. On April 15, regardless of how many previous visits you have had, you will be allowed 8 Occupational Therapy visits, 8 Physical Therapy visits, and 15 Speech/Language Therapy visits *without* having to obtain Prior Authorization.

What if I have obtained a Prior Authorization for visits before April 15?

You will be able to continue those visits until your current prior authorization expires. For example, if you have Prior Authorization for physical therapy visits through May 17, 2004 the new 8 physical therapy visits allowed to you without Prior Authorization will begin after May 17, 2004. So beginning May 18th, you would be able to get 8 additional visits, and then for the 9th you would need to obtain Prior Authorization again.

After I have used up my 8 additional visits, how long must I wait before I can get more visits without Prior Authorization?

These limits are in place for 12 months from the date of your first visit without Prior Authorization *after April 15, 2004*. For example, if you have your first Occupational Therapy visit on May 21st, 2004, you will be allowed 7 more Occupational Therapy visits without Prior Authorization until May 21st, 2005. On May 22nd 2005, your limits will begin again.

I still don't understand these new limits. Who can I call if I have questions?

You can call MassHealth Provider Services at 617-628-4141 or 1-800-325-5231 or visit MassHealth's website at <http://www.state.ma.us/dma/therapy.htm>. You can also call Health Care For All's Health HelpLine at 1-800-272-4232.

How can my doctor obtain a Prior Authorization form?

Your doctor can get the form from www.masshealth-apas.com.