

**To: Keystone First Shift Care Providers**

**Date: September 29, 2022**

**Re: Reinstatement of Prior Authorization Requirements for Shift Care Services for Members Under 21 Years of Age**

The purpose of the notice is to inform you that effective December 1, 2022, Keystone First will reinstate the prior authorization requirements for existing shift care services provided to members under the age of 21. These prior authorization requirements were suspended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic per the guidelines outlined in the Department of Human Services (DHS) Provider Quick Tips #241 issued in April 2020.

DHS recently released Medical Assistance Bulletin (MAB) 05-22-02 providing notice that Fee for Service (FFS) will resume prior authorization of existing shift care services effective November 1, 2022.

Keystone First will follow these updated guidelines but will delay implementation of the reinstatement of prior authorization requirements until December 1, 2022.

Therefore, as of December 1, 2022, and after, the following prior authorization requirements and processes will be reinstated, regardless of whether the COVID-19 public health emergency is extended again:

- Prior authorization is required for all shift care services billed using procedure codes S9123, S9124, and T1019 requested for members under the age of 21.
- Services that continued to be authorized without the need for reauthorization throughout the pandemic must be reauthorized.
- A request for reauthorization must be submitted for medical review within 30 days of the end date of the current authorization period.
- Keystone First will conduct a full clinical medical necessity review of all relevant information submitted by the ordering provider for each request for authorization of pediatric shift care.
- Any reduction in level of shift care services based on the results of medical necessity review, will follow the established written reduction or denial notification process.

Thank you for the continued care you provided to these vulnerable and fragile Keystone First members. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Keystone First Special Needs Unit at 1-800-573-4100.