

Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR



Alan Levine
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Bureau of Health Services Financing

August 6, 2010

Norm Nichols
Executive Account Manager
Unisys Corporation
P.O. Box 3396
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

FIMS #: 1765

Dear Mr. Nichols:

The Molina nursing staff requested clarification of the current policy that requires Severity of Illness reviews for patients moving from an acute level of care to an ICU or CCU level of care. This question was raised at the on-site InterQual training held on June 30, 2010. The following will provide clarification to Molina regarding review and approval of acute care extension length of stay requests for patients that move to a more intensive/higher level of care.

To improve efficiencies at Molina DHH will no longer require the nurse reviewer to apply Severity of Illness Criteria to patients moving from general level of care to ICU or CCU level of care. DHH does not currently pay a different per diem for these levels of care therefore this does not impose a fiscal impact.

DHH will continue to require Molina to apply Severity of Illness Criteria to patients moving from general level of care to PICU or NICU level of care. PICU and NICU are both paid a higher per diem and require Severity of Illness reviews. The cases that do not meet Severity of Illness Criteria for NICU or PICU level of care will be rejected. This will allow the hospital to submit additional clinical information to support the NICU or PICU level of care. If the resubmitted data does not support Severity of Illness for the NICU or PICU level of care the nurse at Molina will send the case for physician review.

In the event DHH begins to pay a higher per diem for CCU or ICU levels of care Molina will then be required to use the Severity of Illness Criteria for such reviews.

These changes will require Molina to update the Internal User Manual as well as the Hospital Process and Procedures Manual for Pre-Certification Length of Stay. The effective date of these changes is August 9, 2010. Please notify Paige Hargrove by email paige.hargrove@la.gov when the manuals are updated and when staff is trained.

Sincerely,

Kyle Viator
Medicaid Deputy Director

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