

Utilization Threshold (UT) Update

In collaboration with research and clinical experts at SUNY, **effective July 24, 2009** two important changes take effect in the Medicaid UT program:

1. **Each Medicaid beneficiary is assigned specific service limits** for Physician/Clinic, Pharmacy and Laboratory services. Service limits for Mental Health Clinic (40 visits) and Dental Clinic (3 visits) remain unchanged.
2. **Each pharmacy refill is now counted in service limits.** A service authorization (SA) must be obtained for each refill on new and existing prescriptions.

The new service limits are scientifically established based on each beneficiary's clinical information, including diagnoses, procedures, prescription drugs, age and gender. As a result, most Medicaid beneficiaries will have service limits increased to clinically appropriate levels and will not need additional services authorized through the Threshold Override Application (TOA) process. **The new service limits will significantly reduce the need for, and the number of, TOAs.**

What has not changed:

- UT SA requirement
- Exempt services and specialties
- TOA process
- SA exception codes

Resources:

- UT Program Guide is located at:
http://www.emedny.org/HIPAA/Provider_Training/Utilization%20Threshold%20Program.pdf
- To obtain SAs, see the Medicaid Eligibility Verification System Manual
<http://www.emedny.org/providermanuals/index.html>
- Computer Sciences Corp, for assistance in obtaining SAs, submitting TOAs or other UT related questions: (800) 343-9000.