



State of Vermont
Agency of Human Services
280 State Drive, Center Building
Waterbury, VT 05671-1000

Global Commitment Register

September 16, 2022

GCR 22-069
FINAL

****COVID-19 Emergency Response****

Please see the [Department of Vermont Health Access COVID-19 site](#) for important information

Emergency Department Reimbursement for Mental Health Extended Stays

Policy Summary:

As part of the response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Vermont Medicaid program will temporarily reimburse hospitals for extended Emergency Department (ED) stays in which a Vermont Medicaid member meets clinical criteria for inpatient psychiatric level of care and there are no beds available for placement. Hospitals may submit a prior authorization request to the Department of Vermont Health Access when a member meeting these criteria exceeds a 24-hour stay in the ED. This per diem rate of \$200 will only be paid for services rendered after the initial 24 hours in the ED.

Effective Date:

July 1, 2022 through the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Authority/Legal Basis:

[Medicaid State Plan](#)

[Global Commitment to Health Waiver](#): Waiver authority #5 [Section 1902(a)(13), 1902(a)(30)]; Special Term and Condition #6.8.

[COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)

Population Affected:

All Medicaid

Fiscal Impact:

The estimated gross annualized budget impact is \$500,000.

Public Comment Period:

The public comment period ended August 1, 2022. The [comment received](#) and [state response](#) can be viewed here.

To be added to the GCR email list, send an email to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov.

Additional Information:

Instructions for submitting a prior authorization request for the per diem rate for mental health extended stays in the Emergency Department can be found on the [Provider Resources page on the Vermont Medicaid Portal](#).

Prior authorization request forms for this per diem rate can be found on the [Clinical Forms and Prior Authorization Forms page](#) on the Department of Vermont Health Access website.

Additional information for providers about prior authorization can be found Section 2 in the [General Billing and Forms Manual](#) on the Department of Vermont Health Access website.