North Sound BH-ASO
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North Sound BH-ASO Memorandum 2026-07

DATE: November 4, 2026

TO: North Sound BH-ASO Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Fee For Service (FFS) Providers

FROM: North Sound BH-ASO Contracts

RE: Data Submission Updates for Outpatient Fee-for-Service Providers

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2027

Dear North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) Providers,

Effective January 1, 2027, North Sound BH-ASO is changing the data and service encounter submission requirements for certain Non-Medicaid-funded outpatient services billed through Fee-for-Service (FFS).

What Is Changing?

Beginning January 1, 2027, providers will no longer be required to submit a 980.00 transaction or obtain an authorization number for individuals receiving the below affected Non-Medicaid FFS services.

Instead, providers will be required to include the following information in the NTE segment of the 837 service encounter:

- Client address
- Poverty level

An authorization number will no longer be required in the NTE segment for these services.

All corresponding supplemental transactions will continue to be required.

Services Affected

This change applies to the following services when billed through Non-Medicaid FFS:

- Mental health outpatient
- SUD outpatient
- Opioid treatment program (OTP)
- Intensive outpatient services

Programs Not Affected

This change does not apply to programs that require notification, authorization, and/or medical necessity review. Existing requirements for 980.00 and/or 981.00 transactions, as applicable, will remain in place for the following programs:

- Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)

- New Journeys
- SUD residential
- Withdrawal management
- Crisis stabilization
- Crisis relief centers
- Post-ITA court-ordered LRO/LRA treatment

LRO/LRA Treatment Reminder: Providers must continue to submit an authorization to North Sound BH-ASO when a client receiving services is under an LRO or LRA.

Ongoing Provider Responsibilities

Providers are required to review financial eligibility with individuals at every visit. North Sound BH-ASO will monitor adherence to these requirements through provider audits.

Implementation

Providers should continue using current data and service encounter submission processes through December 31, 2026. The revised requirements will take effect January 1, 2027.

This advance notice is intended to provide providers with sufficient time to update internal processes, procedures, and systems as needed. Please share this memorandum with appropriate staff within your organization.

If you have questions regarding this memorandum or contract requirements, please contact **contracts@nsbhaso.org**. For technical questions regarding data and encounter submissions, please contact **CIS@nsbhaso.org**.

Thank you for your continued partnership in serving individuals throughout the North Sound region.

Cc: North Sound BH-ASO Staff
North Sound BH-ASO Contracts