

Authorization Guide for Sobering Centers

Sobering Centers are alternative destinations for individuals publicly intoxicated (due to alcohol and/or other drugs) who would otherwise be transported to the emergency department or jail.

Members must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Sobering Centers service:

| Program overview | Required documentation |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide members (primarily those who are homeless or in unstable living situations) with a safe, supportive environment to become sober. ● Provide services such as: medical triage, lab testing, a temporary bed, rehydration and food service, treatment for nausea, wound and dressing changes, shower and laundry facilities, substance use education and counseling, navigation and warm hand-offs for additional substance use services or other necessary health care services, and homeless care support services. | <p>Initial assessment (submitted retrospectively)</p> |
| Service Requirements | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Direct coordination with behavioral health agency, and warm hand-offs for additional behavioral health services. ● Screening and linkage to supportive services such as mental health, substance use disorder treatment and housing options. ● Partnership with law enforcement, emergency personnel, and outreach teams to identify and divert individuals to Sobering Centers. ● Utilize best practices for members experiencing homelessness and who have complex health and/or behavioral health. | |
| Eligibility | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individuals aged 18 and older who are intoxicated and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Conscious. ○ Cooperative. ○ Able to walk. ○ Nonviolent. ○ Free from any medical distress. ○ Have no apparent underlying symptoms. ● Members who would be transported to the emergency department or a jail. ● Members who present to an emergency department and are appropriate for a Sobering Center. | |
| Authorization | |
| <p>This service is covered for a duration of up to 24 hours or less. Authorize one unit with no continuous extensions. No authorization extension.</p> | |

| Restrictions | State services to be avoided: |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member is participating in a duplicative state funded sobering program. | <p>Examples of services to be avoided include but are not limited to: inpatient and outpatient hospital services, emergency department services and emergency transportation services.</p> |
| Codes | |
| <p>H0014 U6 Alcohol and/or drug services; ambulatory detoxification.</p> | |
| Total lifetime maximum | |
| <p>N/A</p> | |
| Eligible providers: | |
| <p>Providers must have experience and expertise with providing these unique services.¹</p> | |

¹ Examples of possible providers: Sobering Centers, or other appropriate and allowable substance use disorder facilities.