



PROVIDER ALERT

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA) Certification

April 5, 2019

Dear Providers,

Since July of 2018, Optum Idaho has worked with the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA) to explore options on how to better assist our providers obtain the Child and Family Resiliency Practitioner (CFRP) certification for child serving, skills building providers. During this time, we informed Network Providers that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) requirement to obtain certification within thirty (30) months of their initial hire was on hold for Optum network providers if they were wishing to pursue the CFRP only.

Optum Idaho has received clarification from IDHW regarding the applicability of IDAPA 16.03.09.855 to Optum Idaho's Network Providers. This requirement includes a provision that providers must have or obtain the required PRA certification within thirty (30) months of becoming a Network Provider or within thirty (30) months of their initial employment as a Skills Building/Community Based Rehabilitation Services (CBRS) provider.

This requirement is included in Optum Idaho service documentation, shown on the PRA website specific to the State of Idaho and Idaho Statute, Idaho Code § 56-255(5)(a)(ix), which requires behavioral health professionals be certified to national standards, however we understand there may be some confusion given the perceived scope of IDAPA 16.03.09.855. We deeply appreciate your continued efforts on behalf of Medicaid Members and understand the recent PRA certification challenges and wanted to provide clarification on this information.

Skills Building/CBRS providers who should have tested for their PRA certification since July 1, 2018, but did not due to this information, must immediately resume working toward certification. Providers with questions about the training and certification for a specific Skills Building/CBRS provider should contact your Optum Regional Network Manager.

Effective January 2019, the PRA certification exams are being offered on-demand 365 days a year with scores available on a quarterly basis. In addition, as of February 2019, PRA will allow individuals to take the exam before their work experience is completed. We hope these changes by PRA will assist providers in completing the certification.

In addition to the changes that PRA has made to assist providers, Optum has been working with IDHW to develop some additional on-demand training options through a new Optum Endorsement Program for paraprofessionals who predominately serve children and will provide more information about this program in a separate notification. It is our goal that the trainings will assist those providers in Idaho align with the YES Program and help prepare your employees in obtaining their CFRP should they pursue this certification.

We appreciate your work to offer these services to the Medicaid Members in our state. Should you have any questions about this clarifying notification, please contact your Optum Regional Network Manager. To learn more about PRA and certification requirements, please visit the PRA website at <https://www.psychrehabassociation.org/>.

Thank you,

The Optum Idaho Team