



PROVIDER ALERT

Feb. 1, 2022

Alert Summary: This alert details an important update for the Youth Support service concerning minimum member age.

Dear Provider,

We wanted to make you aware that, **effective March 1, 2022, the Youth Support service will only be billable for members ages 12 to 17** (until the day they turn 18). However, Peer Services are still available for the families of members under the age of 12, via Family Support.* Optum is implementing this change to align with national best practice, the Jeff D settlement agreement and feedback. Youth Support is not designed for young children; however, Family Support, which includes the parent/guardian involvement, is appropriate for younger children.

Focusing on members ages 12 and older also ensures Youth Support providers are successful in helping members meet the requirements and criteria outlined in the Provider Manual and Level of Care Guidelines, such as:

- Having the capacity and ability to understand their diagnosis
- Developing a network of support
- Gaining the ability to make independent choices and take a proactive role in their individualized treatment
- Navigating behavioral health systems

The standards above can be very difficult for younger members to comprehend or meet. In addition, Youth Support is “directed by the youth,” therefore, other services are a more appropriate option for families of members under the age of 12. Family Support, Respite and/or Skills Building/CBRS are services to consider for these younger members.

The Optum Idaho Level of Care Guideline will be revised to reflect this change to be effective March 1, 2022.

Please contact your Provider Relations Advocate with any questions.

Thank you,

The Optum Idaho Team

*If you are interested in obtaining Family Support training, please contact:

BPA Health Peer and Family Support Certification

208-947-1300

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