



Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities: Quality Incentive Payments

Children's Behavioral Health Working Group: March 2025

Overview of PRTFs

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) provide intensive inpatient psychiatric services to individuals under 21 years old with severe emotional and behavioral disorders. These facilities offer a structured environment where comprehensive treatment plans are implemented under the supervision of qualified mental health professionals. The primary goal is to stabilize the individual's condition and facilitate a successful transition back into the community.

Quality Incentive Payments in PRTFs

Nevada Medicaid is designing a new Quality Incentive Payment (QIP) program to reward PRTFs that provide high quality care, in alignment with our Transformation goals. By linking financial incentives to specific performance metrics, QIPs aim to promote clinical best practices and improve patient outcomes. Once implemented, Nevada will be the second state in the nation with a program like this for PRTFs.

Potential Quality Metrics

An effective QIP ties financial incentives to achieving a particular performance goal. These performance goals should be tied to metrics that are clear and measurable. A few examples of measurable outcomes include:

- **Readmission Rates:** Monitoring the frequency of patient readmissions within 30 days of discharge can indicate the effectiveness of initial treatment and discharge planning.
- **Discharge Planning:** Ensuring comprehensive discharge plans are in place, including coordination with community services, to support patients transition back into their communities.
- **Patient and Family Engagement:** Actively involving patients and their families in treatment decisions and therapy sessions can enhance treatment adherence and satisfaction.
- **Successful Transition Back Into the Community:** Ongoing engagement with community providers, no additional hospitalization or crisis team interaction, etc.

Timeline

- March 2025: Workgroup input on quality metrics
- Spring 2025: Quality measure framework finalized
- Summer-Fall 2025: NV Medicaid seeks and obtains federal approval
- January 2026: Quality measurement begins

Reflection Questions:

1. Based on your experience with PRTF care, what outcomes make this clinical treatment "successful"?
2. Which of these outcomes should we consider using as metrics for the QIP?