

SB43 Inpatient (IP) Psychiatric BHU Requests

1. Hospital ruled out co-occurring Mental Health (MH) & confirmed:
Standalone severe SUD + GD + Legal Hold
 - a. If co-occurring, STOP SB43 workflow and request MH authorization per usual “San Diego IP Concurrent Review Authorization Process”
2. Call Optum (800-798-2254, option 3 then 1) and **fax** request (866-220-4495) using Inpatient Auth Request Fax Cover Sheet **marked “SB43/IP BHU”** with required documents (include plan for SUD recovery services)
3. If during admission or at **first** continuation request, it’s identified the client is co-occurring, hospital may instead request authorization per usual MH pathways (MH authorization to begin date of admission)
4. Optum makes SB43/IP BHU admission determination within 24 hours and continuation determination within 1 business day
5. **Admission requests-up to 3 acute IP BHU days** authorized
6. **Continuation requests**
 - a. Before submitting continuation, hospital calls API to check Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitalization (CDRH) bed availability; if available coordinate transfer*
 - b. If CDRH bed not available, continuation may be submitted before end of previous authorization & **up to 4 acute days** authorized
 - c. Administrative days may be authorized on a case-by-case basis
7. If modified/denied: hospital may request expedited/informal appeal review
8. Upon discharge, hospital faxes to Optum IP Auth Request Fax Cover Sheet **marked SB43/IP BHU** with required documents
9. Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) or UB04 facility claim is submitted to Optum; **retroactive requests mark SB43 IP/BHU**

*<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/BHIN-24-011.pdf>

*<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/provgovpart/Documents/SB-43-FAQs.pdf>

*Updated May 2026

Inpatient Hospitalization Authorization Requests: optumsandiego.com

Optum San Diego


Home | **BHS Provider Resources** | Access & Crisis Line | Community Resources | About Us | Beneficiary & Families

- Home
- SmartCare Training
- TERM Providers
- Fee for Service Providers**
- MHP Provider Documents

Fee for Service Providers

This page is a resource for obtaining Medi-Cal documentation trainings, Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) treatment authorizations and other supportive provider materials

FFS MEDI-CAL DOCUMENTATION TRAINING PAGE



As a Fee-for-Service provider you are required to meet the documentation standards established by the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services. This training provides an overview of the required documentation standards.

[Click Here to Access Training](#)

MEDI-CAL FFS PROVIDER LINE
(800) 798-2254
HOURS OF OPERATION: MON. - FRI.
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

PROVIDER RESOURCE MATERIALS

Select a category below to find additional materials.

Applications	Beneficiary Materials	CANS/PSC	Claims	Communications & Updates
Compliance	Manuals	Provider Newsletter	Provider Services	Review - Inpatient
Review - Medication Quality Assurance	Review - Outpatient	SMHS Authorization Requests	Templates and Examples	Inpatient Authorization Requests