



## Network Notification

**Notice Date:** May 4, 2019  
**To:** Ohio Providers  
**From:** CareSource®  
**Subject:** Access Standards Update

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### Summary

CareSource is informing you of updated behavioral health access standards, which we are aligning to the requirement supported by Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS). The current edition of the Provider Manual does not reflect this standard.

### Impact

The current Ohio Provider Manual has listed a 14 calendar day timeframe as the standard for “Non-PCP Specialists”/Behavioral Health providers to see patients for an initial routine care visit. The revised timeframe Behavioral Health providers should see patients for an initial routine visit is within **10 business days**. Please see the grid below to review CareSource’s access standards, including the most recent update.

### Primary Care Physicians (PCP)

Patients with...	Should be seen...
Emergency needs	Immediately upon presentation
Urgent care*	No later than the end of the following working day after the patient’s initial contact with the PCP site
Regular and routine care needs	Not to exceed 6 weeks

### Non-PCP Specialists

Patients with...	Should be seen...
Emergency needs	Immediately upon presentation
Urgent care*	Not to exceed 48 hours
Regular and routine care needs	Not to exceed 12 weeks

### Behavioral Health Specialists

Patients with...	Should be seen...
Emergency needs	Immediately upon presentation
Non-life threatening emergency	Not to exceed 6 hours
Urgent care*	Not to exceed 48 hours
Initial visit for routine care	Not to exceed 10 business days
Follow-up routine care	Not to exceed 30 calendar days based off the condition

*\*A member should be seen as expeditiously as the member’s condition warrants based on severity of symptoms. It is expected that if a provider is unable to see the member within the appropriate timeframe, CareSource will facilitate an appointment with a participating provider or a nonparticipating provider, if necessary.*

The correction will be made to these standards in the Ohio Provider Manual when the next edition is published.

**Questions?**

For questions, please contact Provider Services at **1-800-488-0134** (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday).

OH-SP-0198