

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**Subject:** Behavioral Health Follow-Up HEDIS<sup>®</sup> Measures: 7-Day Follow-Up is the 2026 Priority

**Summary:** This year our priority focus is on the 7-day follow up rates for Follow-Up After Mental Health Inpatient Admission (FUH), Follow-Up After ED Visit for Mental Illness (FUM) and Follow-Up After ED Visit for Substance Use (FUA).

Timely follow-up after a behavioral health encounter is critical for member safety, continuity of care, and improved outcomes. This year, our priority focus is on 7-day follow-up rates for FUH, FUM, and FUA.

Improving 7-day follow-up supports member stabilization, reduces readmissions, and strengthens care transitions.

### Why the 7-Day Follow-Up Matters

- Early follow-up reduces the risk of relapse, self-harm, and repeat ED visits.
- Members are more likely to stay engaged in treatment when seen quickly.
- Provides the opportunity to coordinate care and address barriers to intervene promptly.
- Increases the likelihood of sustained well-being.

### Best Practices to Improve 7-Day Follow-Ups

- Provider appointment reminders
- Reserve "bridge" appointments for post-discharge members
- Offer a telehealth option to reduce barriers
- Explain the importance of follow-up in simple, supportive language
- Reschedule missed appointments within 24 hours

Disclaimer: Physicians and other health care providers are solely responsible for the treatment decisions of their patients and should not use the information in this communication to substitute independent clinical judgment.

**Questions:** Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Provider Services at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

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