

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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The Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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Interim Final Rules under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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## General Comment

Apparently, we have gone from 20-26 visits a year--no questions asked-- to prior authorization required for outpatient visits to a licensed and registered counselor, social worker, etc. Most of these gate keepers do not ask any questions as to the status of the patient; they just arbitrarily assign a number of visits in a designated time frame. Oh, what a hassle.

This is not parity. Patients do not need prior authorization to see their family practitioner or any other medical professional, unless they are in an HMO.

Please do not allow the insurance companies design a way to undue parity. Thank you.