STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
Residential Care Services • P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

10/01/2026

HCLA: AFH #2026-042
ALF #2026-042
ESF #2026-031
Adjustment to the Intensive Behavioral Supportive Supervision (IBSS) Program

Dear Provider/Administrator:

This letter is to provide courtesy notification regarding a program review and a subsequent adjustment to the Intensive Behavioral Supportive Supervision (IBSS) program under the In Lieu of Services (ILOS) authority.

As a reminder, this voluntary service is administered by Managed Care Organizations (MCO) and available to all Apple Health (Medicaid) clients who meet the clinical criteria and are enrolled in managed care (42 CFR § 438.3).

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is making changes in compliance with recent legislation to lower program costs and ensure IBSS serves the intended target population.

Changes effective October 1, 2026.

- **Tier 1 and 2** will no longer be authorized. This change impacts new requests for IBSS and clients already receiving this level of IBSS (renewals). If you have clients affected by this change you should have already been contacted by the authorizing managed care plan.
- **New Clinical criteria** will require clients requesting supportive supervision through IBSS to have had a medically necessary hospital admission within the last 12 months for initial authorization for IBSS.

Resources:

HCA will release a GovDelivery message when the new ILOS Policy Guide is published. See ILOS Policy Guide effective October 1, 2026, for more information.

Please contact your client's MCO with questions about these changes.

If your question is unresolved, please reach out to: HCA1915IServices@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

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