



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Behavioral Health Administration
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
PO Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330

March 31, 2016

Dear Substance Use Disorder Providers:

Thank you for your commitment and partnership over the recent months, the system changes we have been working toward are important and complex. We share a goal of providing timely, quality service to those seeking treatment.

On March 29, 2016, the Health Care Authority and Department of Social and Health Services were notified by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) that our 1915(b) Waiver amendment was approved. This amendment supports the integrated administration of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and mental health treatment services into Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) for Medicaid eligible individuals.

In response to the concerns expressed by Washington State Tribes and Urban Indian Health Organizations, CMS and the State agreed that American Indians and Alaskan Natives (AI/AN) will be exempted from the integration of substance use disorder treatment into the BHOs. Medicaid enrolled AI/ANs will continue to access Medicaid SUD services through the fee-for-service (FFS) system after April 1, 2016. The only exception to this is for Medicaid-eligible residents in the Southwest Region (Clark and Skamania Counties).

In the Southwest Region, AI/AN residents who are Medicaid-eligible will have SUD coverage through contracts managed by the Health Care Authority.

Individuals who self-identify as AI/AN when they apply or recertify for Medicaid or when they submit a change in Healthplanfinder or through the HCA Medical Customer Service Center will be included in the AI/AN FFS program. They will be able to request SUD treatment services from any SUD provider who is a participating provider in the AI/AN FFS program. In the AI/AN FFS program, these services do not require BHO or State authorization.

DSHS will pay for the treatment services provided for Medicaid-eligible AI/ANs who are in treatment on March 31, 2016, through the course of their current treatment episode.

For AI/AN individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid and are in treatment on March 31, 2016, the BHO will pay for services for up to sixty calendar days or until the individual no longer meets ASAM criteria for the service.

Participation as an AI/AN FFS provider, requires a core provider agreement with the Health Care Authority, and the ability to submit claims through ProviderOne (P1). If your program is excluded from Medicaid reimbursement because it meets the definition of an Institute for Mental Disease (IMD), a provider agreement with DBHR is required. DBHR will reach out to all IMD programs to provide the agreement needed and billing and payment information.

All providers who participate in the AI/AN FFS program must continue to submit data through the existing DBHR TARGET database system. Data on these services must not be submitted to the BHO, as they do not have a clinical or financial responsibility for these services.

DBHR will work with outpatient and residential providers in the coming weeks to identify providers who agree to participate in the AI/AN FFS program. DSHS will update our FFS provider list and include this information at <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/division-behavioral-health-and-recovery/directory-certified-chemical-dependency-services-washington-state>.

Claims for services provided for the AI/AN FFS program, beginning April 1, 2016, will be paid at the rates in the enclosed rate sheet. AI/AN FFS providers will be able to begin submitting claims through the P1 system for the AI/AN program beginning April 20, 2016, this includes services provided April 1, 2016 or later.

If a provider submits a claim for an individual who identified as AI/AN after April 1 and the claim is rejected for payment by P1, DBHR will work with you to obtain payment either through P1 or other reimbursement.

Please let DBHR know of your willingness to accept AI/AN patients on a fee for service basis as soon as possible by sending notification to our FFS inbox at: AIANSUDAccess@dshs.wa.gov.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Tiffany Villines, Behavioral Health Administrator by email at tiffany.villines@dshs.wa.gov or by phone at 360-725-3726.

Sincerely,



Chris Imhoff, LICSW
Director

cc: Tiffany Villines, Behavioral Health Administrator, DBHR
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