

Change in Payment Policy

For Children in Substitute Care Receiving Behavioral Health Services

Background

The Behavioral Health Managed Care component of the Medical Assistance Health Choices initiative has been implemented in a sequential manner, with certain zones converting at different times. The MA Fee for Service Program has been responsible to pay for behavioral health services for Children in Substitute Care (CISC) when provided "out-of-zone." With Behavioral Health Managed Care now in place throughout the State, the BH-MCOs can work with the County mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice authorities to manage care for youth that are residents of their county, even when the youth is temporarily out of the county. OMHSAS, in coordination with OCYF, recently completed data and financial analysis to establish a capitation payment to enable the Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations (BH-MCOs) to be responsible for services even when individuals are temporarily "out-of-zone."

Policy Changes

There are two aspects of this policy change which will be effective August 1, 2009:

1. When a Child in Substitute Care is placed in a non-mental health or drug and alcohol placement such as Shelter programs, Diagnostic centers, Foster family home, including kinship care homes, or Residential facilities, the child remains enrolled in the BH-MCO from the original placing county.
2. Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations will be responsible for service authorization, managing care and reimbursing for medically necessary treatment for CISC who are in licensed non-hospital drug and alcohol residential treatment facilities, whether in the BH-MCO zone or out of the zone.

Room and Board for Residential Treatment

Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations can cover room and board costs for accredited facilities as in-lieu-of service. CMS recognizes JCAHO, COA, and CARF accreditation.

Implementation

OMHSAS and OCYF are working on the processes that are required to implement this change. These include:

- Health Choices contract change; Appendix V revised regarding new payment responsibility; and capitation adjustments for BH-MCOs;
- Providers will be enrolled in Medical Assistance (if not yet enrolled) and in the BH-MCOs Health Choices provider network beginning in May, 2009.
- Notification regarding August 1, 2009 implementation has been made to designated providers of licensed D&A residential services, including Non-Hospital Rehabilitation, Halfway House and Detoxification.
- Notification will be sent to County Children and Youth Administrators and Chief Juvenile Probation Officers in June, 2009.
- Notice will be sent to clients in July (youth and their families).

6-01-09