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MCO Communication Bulletin #J116

Date: January 9, 2015
To: LME-MCOs
From: Mabel McGlothlen, LME System Performance Team Leader, DMH/DD/SAS, and Kathy Nichols, Lead Waiver Program Manager, Contracts Section, DMA
Subject: Associate Level Licensed Providers: Direct Enrollment

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify associate level licensed providers that they must directly enroll by June 30, 2015 to provide Medicaid and state funded outpatient behavioral health services.

Associate level licensed providers must apply and enroll through the LME-MCO with which they wish to contract. Effective July 1, 2015, if the associate level licensed provider wishes to provide services to Medicaid beneficiaries age 0 to 3, Health Choice beneficiaries, or legal aliens, the associate level professional must enroll with DMA by contacting Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC).

The associate level licensed provider will need to be enrolled with both DMA (through CSC) and the LME-MCO if they wish to provide services to multiple populations.

- The Division of Public Health provides services to individuals who are age 0-3 and are not Medicaid or Health Choice eligible.
- DMH/DD/SAS provides services to individuals who have had their third birthday and older.

Associate level licensed providers enrolling with DMA (through CSC) or the LME-MCO will enroll under the taxonomy code of their respective profession. For example, the Associate Level Licensed Clinical Social Worker will enroll under the taxonomy code for a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

For claims submitted through NC Tracks, the rate for the associate level licensed provider is the same as the rate for their fully licensed counterpart. However, LME-MCOs have the ability to set their own rates for services. Therefore, associate level licensed providers should contact the LME-MCO for information regarding rates.

Associate level licensed providers will need to obtain their own National Provider Identifier (NPI) number if they do not have one. To apply for an NPI number, please see the instructions on the following website <https://npes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.instructions>

- Associate level licensed providers may contact CSC (1-800-688-6696) with questions regarding enrollment with DMA.
- Associate level licensed providers should contact their LME-MCO regarding enrollment.

As outlined in section 6.2 of the outpatient Clinical Coverage Policy 8C, associate level licensed providers are allowed to bill “incident-to” their supervising physician or bill through the LME-MCO until the associate level licensed provider is able to directly enroll with the LME-MCO. The policy states that when the associate level licensed provider is able to direct enroll, then DMA will discontinue the associate level license provider “incident to” policy. The “incident to” policy change will not impact providers receiving state-funded reimbursement as DMH/DD/SAS does not support “incident to” billing.

Associate level licensed providers will be able to continue billing “incident to” their supervising physician for Medicaid or bill HCPCS codes through a willing LME-MCO for Medicaid and/or state-funded behavioral health outpatient services until they have completed direct enrollment, or until June 30, 2015, whichever comes first.

Effective July 1, 2015:

1. DMA will change the outpatient Clinical Coverage Policy 8C and remove the section on "incident to" billing for associate level licensed providers as well as remove the section allowing associate licensed level providers to bill HCPCS codes (H0001, H0004 + modifiers, H0005 and H0031) through the LME-MCO.
2. DMH/DD/SAS will also eliminate HCPCS code billing through the LME-MCO for state-funded outpatient services at the same time.

All associate level licensed providers are required to have supervision from a supervisor approved by their licensing board. This supervision is critical to ensuring quality of services for beneficiaries being served by associate level licensed providers. Each associate level licensed provider is required to ensure that they meet the supervision requirements set forth by their respective licensing board.

The links to the rules pertaining to the respective board’s supervision requirements found in the North Carolina Administrative Code are as follows:

Marriage and Family Licensure Board:

http://www.ncmft.org/images/uploads/other_pdfs/chapter_31_rules.pdf

Substance Abuse Professional Practice Board:

<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2021%20-%20occupational%20licensing%20boards%20and%20commissions/chapter%2068%20-%20substance%20abuse%20professional%20practice%20board/21%20ncac%2068%20.0204.pdf>

North Carolina Board of Licensed Professional Counselors:
[http://ncblpc.org/Laws and Codes/Title 21 Chapter 53.pdf](http://ncblpc.org/Laws_and_Codes/Title_21_Chapter_53.pdf)

North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board:
<http://ncswboard.org/page/administrative-code#.0210>

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Nichols at: Katherine.nichols@dhhs.nc.gov for Medicaid and Health Choice related questions, and Mabel McGlothen at: Mabel.McGlothen@dhhs.nc.gov for state-funded questions.

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