

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AIDE ENCOUNTER RATE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will reimbursement be available for services provided under the new Community Health Aide/Behavioral Health Aide (CHA/BHA) State Plan Amendment?

The approved Alaska Medicaid State Plan identifies that CHA and BHA services will be eligible for payment beginning July 1, 2017. Claims may not be submitted until the MMIS system has been updated and is able to enroll the new CHA/BHA providers and process corresponding claims attributed to the new providers. At this time the department is anticipating tribes should be able to submit claims beginning in late fall/early winter 2017. The CHA/BHA claims held from July 1, 2017 to the date MMIS is able to accept them will be retroactively paid. There will be ample notification to tribal health organizations if further delays are anticipated.

Will behavioral health aides and practitioners currently receiving the Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CBHC) encounter rate continue to receive the CBHC encounter rate?

Providers will be entitled to the CBHC encounter rate for services provided in the CBHC. This process will remain unchanged and tribes can continue to submit these claims as usual.

How do we bill for services provided by a CHA or BHA in Tribal clinics?

If both a Health Professional Group (HPG) CHA service and a Tribal Clinic (CL) service are billed for the same member and same date of service, only one encounter payment will be paid.

If an HPG bills for a BHA service and a separate and distinct CHA service for the same beneficiary on the same date of service, an encounter payment will be paid for both the BHA service and the CHA service. However, only one CHA encounter payment and one BHA encounter payment will be allowed for the same beneficiary on the same date of service.

If both an HPG BHA service and a tribal CBHC service are billed for the same member on the same date of service, only one encounter payment will be paid. For example, a provider **cannot** bill for a beneficiary receiving a BHA rehab service and a tribal CBHC clinic service on the same day.

How do we enroll Behavioral Health Aides?

A new provider type is being created for BHAs. Once fully developed, all levels of BHA must enroll. Specialty codes will be assigned to identify the levels. BHAs will be enrolled as rendering providers affiliated to a tribal Health Professional Group (HPG).

Are behavioral health aides required to have a National Provider Identifier number prior to enrollment?

Yes.

When do we enroll our new providers?

New enrollment applications and requested documentation for all levels of BHA and CHA levels I and II may be submitted to Conduent once the system has been updated to accept the new provider type. At this time Conduent cannot accept and hold applications. Please wait to submit new enrollments until Conduent is ready to process them. Once the system is updated tribes will be notified that they can begin enrolling.

Can a BHA and CHA both be enrolled under the same Health Professional Group?

Yes. However, we advise tribes to consider using different HPGs when they operate at more than one site and will have both CHAs and BHAs performing services; and in any locations that have a high volume of staff.

Are all services billed by a Health Professional Group eligible for the CHA/BHA encounter rate?

No. The CHA/BHA encounter rate may be paid only when services are rendered by a CHA or BHA who is affiliated with the HPG in which the physician supervising their respective service delivery is also affiliated.

Provided they have the appropriate certifications, can an individual deliver services as both a CHA and BHA?

Yes.

Why must BHAs be supervised by physicians instead of clinicians?

To simplify the enrollment of the new BHA provider type, the Department is following the same structure and process as the CHA enrollments. This eliminates the requirement for developing a new process to support the affiliations. Tribal agencies may have clinicians provide joint supervision with the physician per the BHA standards requiring all BHA service be supervised by a Licensed Clinician. However, the overall responsibility for BHA supervision will fall under the physician as the MMIS will only recognize the HPG or supervising physician.

Can a BHA and CHA be supervised by the same physician?

Yes. The tribal health organization is free to set up an internal process for supervision.