

	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Bulletin COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	SUBJECT Mental Health Crisis Intervention (MHCI) Fee Schedule	BY  Charles G. Curie Deputy Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
NUMBER:	OMHSAS-01-03	
ISSUE DATE:	June 1, 2001	
EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 1, 2001	

SCOPE:

County MH/MR Programs
 Mental Health Crisis Intervention Programs

BACKGROUND:

On July 1, 1995, a Medical Assistance Fee Schedule for Mental Health Crisis Intervention (MHCI) Services was implemented to reimburse MHCI providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program. Any county, which identifies a new provider initiating service on or after July 1, 1995, must use the fee schedule as the maximum amount of Departmental participation (both state and federal) in the reimbursement of services provided.

POLICY:

A Departmentally established fee schedule is currently being utilized to enforce maximum reimbursement levels of state and federal participation in the Medical Assistance Program for MHCI services. The fee schedule is evaluated annually and is required for use by all providers of MHCI services effective July 1, 1997.

PROCEDURE:

On July 1, 1997, a Medical Assistance Fee Schedule for Mental Health Crisis Intervention services went into effect. The fees assigned to these services are attached to this bulletin as Attachment 1. Any county, which identifies a new provider initiating service on or after that time must use the fee schedule as the maximum amount of Departmental participation (both state and federal) in the reimbursement of services provided.

Each county evaluates services provided at the Department established fee published to determine whether providers shall be reimbursed at the maximum level allowed. The contract between the county and the provider should specify rate of reimbursement and the services to be provided. If the county is reimbursing at a level lower than the published fee schedule, it will be at the discretion of the county to entertain rate changes. The published fee schedule represents the maximum amount of Department participation (both state and federal) and therefore, no additional state or federal funds may be made available. In addition, counties participating in the HealthChoices program will be given the option to reimburse providers at the managed care organization's approved rates for all clients served in the county, providing the county is able to support the state portion of the approved rate. Approved rate changes will have an effective date to be determined by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), Medicaid Operations Section.

In the event a county will be reimbursing at a rate other than the published fee schedule, the county must notify the OMHSAS, in writing, of the actual fee. **Notification must be made prior to June 30th, 2001.** The documentation accompanying the request for a change in the fee should include a completed budget, using the OMHSAS supplied format and an explanation/justification for the change in rate. The mailing address is:

Department of Public Welfare
 Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
 Bureau of Financial Management and Administration
 Room 502, Health and Welfare Building
 Harrisburg, PA 17120
 Attn: Medicaid Operations Section

The county must send a copy of this notification to the provider and to the Field Office of the OMHSAS. Upon receipt of the information, the Medicaid Operations Section will update the provider payment file and notify the provider of the authorization to bill for the specified time period and forward a copy of that correspondence to the appropriate Field Office and to the county. If notification is not received by July 1st of each fiscal year the OMHSAS will assume full county approval of the published fees and will proceed with the notification process to inform providers, counties and Field Offices.

The fee schedule previously in effect was reviewed by the OMHSAS and was determined that a five percent increase was warranted. Therefore, the fee schedule for Mental Health Crisis Intervention Service providers was updated appropriately. Since all providers are now reimbursed at rates based on a set fee schedule, they are considered to be "Department established fees." The requirements to cost settle has been eliminated with the implementation of the MHCi fee schedule.

Attachments

- Mental Health Crisis Intervention Fee Schedule

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Eastern Operations:

Southeast Field Office - (610) 313-5844; Scranton Field Office - (570) 963-4375

Western Operations:

Pittsburgh Field Office - (412) 880-0193; Harrisburg Field Office - (717) 772-6650

Visit the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse website at www.dpw.state.pa.us