

**COVID-19 and Timely Encounter Submissions**  
**Date Issued: December 4, 2020**

**Overview:** On March 6, 2020, Governor Wolf issued an emergency disaster declaration in response to the presence of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Pennsylvania. Pursuant to this disaster declaration, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) advised Behavioral Health (BH) County Contractors and Managed Care Organizations (MCO)s of several reporting and code changes related to the submission of encounters.

In light of these changes to claims processing and encounter reporting, encounter data timeliness requirements in the Program Standards and Requirements document (PSR) Part II-7, Section M.3 and PSR Appendix R have been waived for service dates on or after March 1, 2020. Once the emergency declaration has been lifted, we will resume normal timeliness requirements.

If you have any questions, please contact [PW.OMHSAS.OMHSAS-837.Issues@pa.gov](mailto:PW.OMHSAS.OMHSAS-837.Issues@pa.gov).