



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SUSAN L. HOLT, LMFT
DIRECTOR
PUBLIC GUARDIAN

Re: Medicare/Medi-Cal Dual Insurance Coverage (commonly known as Medi-Medi)

Dear Valued Network Providers,

Through the implementation of Cal-AIM and fee for service structure, the Department (DBH) evaluated service delivery to ensure alignment with Medi-Cal regulations. The Department and Contracted Providers have continuously provided services to the unserved and underserved individuals in accordance with Mental Health Services Act principles and our mission to ensure access to behavioral health services.

With the evolving landscape for behavioral health services funding, the Department is providing this guidance regarding individuals insured by dually covered by Medicare and Medi-Cal. Beginning January 1, 2024, Medicare will cover mental health care services provided by Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) and Mental Health Care Counselors (MHCs). Please see attached CMS FAQ for further guidance.

Contractors are required to enroll in and become Medicare certified in order to bill Medicare for individuals served by the Mental Health Plan and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System. Medi-Cal is the payor of last resort; thus, Providers must bill to Medicare first before DBH can submit a claim to Medi-Cal. Once Contractors bill Medicare and receive a denial. Explanation of Benefits (EOB) or remittance document from Medicare, Contractors then submit the documents to DBH for claiming to Medi-Cal. Please send the documents to your assigned Contract Analyst and DBHAccountsReceivable@fresnocountyca.gov. Contractors will be paid the difference between the amount that DBH would normally pay for a covered service and the amount that Medicare already paid the Contractor. There are some services that Medi-Cal covers that Medicare does not cover and, in those instances, DBH pays for the Medi-Cal covered service at the contracted rate. Contracted Providers are encouraged to have robust understanding of the Medi-Cal Billing Manual which addresses dual coverage (Medi-Medi) and familiarize themselves with Medicare regulations and claiming requirements. Medicare information is available at www.cms.gov.

Understanding that obtaining Medicare certification will take some time, the Department will continue to reimburse services for any individuals currently receiving services until **February 29, 2024**. Effective **March 1, 2024**, Contractors are expected to be Medicare certified, bill Medicare for relevant services, and continue following the processes for dual coverage individuals per agreement language.

If you have any questions, please contact your assigned Analyst. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Respectfully,

Susan Holt (Nov 21, 2023 15:56 PST)

Susan L. Holt, Director
Department of Behavioral Health

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