

PROVIDER ALERT

Authorization and Billing Issues: Nurse Practitioners (PT23)

April 4, 2023

Target Audience: Nurse Practitioners (PT23)

Optum Maryland has identified an issue that occurred from March 15 – March 22, 2023, that impacted authorizations and claims for Nurse Practitioners (PT23) who provide Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Services (SUD).

Optum Maryland has updated the provider profile configuration that caused this issue and has validated the correct set-up in Incedo.

Provider action needed:

If you are a Nurse Practitioner (NP) with the appropriate credentials, or a Mental Health Group employing a NP who is eligible to render MH and SUD services, you should now be able to obtain service authorizations.

- Refer to the [PBHS Fee schedule](#)

If you are a NP who prescribes buprenorphine and have appropriate credentials on your file, you should now be able to obtain service authorizations for SUD diagnoses.

- Refer to the [SUD Fee schedule](#)

Claims adjudicated between March 15 – March 22 (even if the authorization was obtained prior to March 15) may have received a denial for this reason; *“Payment is denied when billed by this provider type.”*

If the claim denied and the provider has the correct credentials on their provider file:

- No provider action is needed. Optum will reprocess the denied claim(s).

If the claim is denied but the provider has the eligible certifications, the provider can email MDH.BHPProviderenrollment@Maryland.gov for further investigation.

If the provider does not have the correct credentials on file and does not have the eligible credentials, then the denial is correct.

Reminders:

Nurse Practitioners eligible to bill for patients with MH and SUD:

- Possess a psychiatric mental health (PMH) certification in addition to your NP credentials.
- Ensure you upload your special certifications (PMH) when you enroll in ePrep
- To participate in a group practice, enroll as a Provider Type 27 (Mental Health Group).

Nurse Practitioners eligible to bill for SUD only (buprenorphine services):

- Possess a Data Waiver (“X”) through 1/1/2023 or a Schedule 3 Authority on your DEA registration for prescribing certain medications.
- Ensure you upload your certification for prescribing when you enroll in ePrep
- To participate in a group practice, enroll as a Provider Type 23 (Nurse Practitioner group) OR you may render buprenorphine services as part of a PT 20 (Physicians) group.

Existing PT 27 groups who employ NP’s that render only Buprenorphine services, please email MDH.BHenrollment@Maryland.gov for further information on corrections needed.

As always, if you are serving as the patient’s primary care provider (PCP) you would bill the patient’s MCO for primary MH/SUD services (see COMAR 10.67.08.02F).

If you have questions about the information contained in this alert, please contact Optum Maryland customer service at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team