



Maryland Provider Council Meeting

March 8, 2024

Hosted by Optum Maryland

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 MDH/BHA Updates
- 3 Extension of Claims Denial Mitigation Project
- 4 Operations Updates
- 4 Provider Questions

MDH/BHA Updates

New Vendor Announcement

- MDH has awarded the contract to Carelon (formerly Beacon Health Options).
- A [transmittal](#) announcing the new vendor was posted on February 27, 2024.
- The effective date of the contract is 3/1/2024 to provide extensive time for Design, Development and Implementation of their system and the Go Live date is 1/1/2025.
- Carelon will be performing extensive provider outreach across the State following intensive review of contract requirements and deliverables.
 - Outreach will be performed directly by newly hired Carelon staff and announcements will be made at future Provider Council meetings of upcoming engagement opportunities.

BHA Updates

The Maryland Register website has published BHA regulations for public comments: Issue Date: February 9, 2024, Volume 51, Issue 3, Pages 123-192.

Comments will be accepted until March 11, 2024. 10.21.31 Maryland Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Registry and Referral System.

The purpose of this action is to create a registry and referral system for mental health and substance use disorders in Maryland. This system will enable healthcare providers to seamlessly identify and access available services.

Claims Denial Mitigation Project

Claims Denial Mitigation (CDM) Project Update

- Overall Project Status
- Softech Approach to Reviewing Claims
- Provider Engagement

**For questions about the CDM Project
OR
to schedule a review of claims within the project:
mdh.denialsproject@maryland.gov**

Claims Denial Mitigation Project

Please see the Secretary's Memo [Communication to Active PBHS Billing Providers Regarding the Extension of the Claims Denial Mitigation Project](#) dated February 29, 2024.

Operations Updates

Operations Updates

PRP TPP Program

As announced in a February 23, 2024, [provider alert](#), Optum and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) are pleased to share the roll out of a *Top Performing Provider (TPP) Program* for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP) providers who meet certain quality criteria, beginning with PRP-Adult.

- Eligible providers who are accepted into the program will benefit from a simpler process for requesting authorizations rather than entering functional impairments and other data in Incedo. ** This point was edited for clarity after the meeting.*
 - Providers must continue to document functional impairments for their own records.
- Top Performing Providers are drawn from providers who have at least 120 approved authorization requests in the past rolling 12 months, who have demonstrated accuracy and clinical appropriateness in their authorization requests over the past year, while maintaining good standing in other areas including licensing, accreditation, incident reporting, level of complaints, and audits.
- Invitations will be sent to the email address given on PRP authorization request forms.

Prescriber Enrollment Requirement for Behavioral Health Practitioners

- Effective July 1, 2024, Medicaid will deny **all pharmacy claims** that do not include the NPI of a prescribing practitioner who is actively enrolled with Maryland Medicaid, in accordance with Section 6401 of the Affordable Care Act and Code of Federal Regulations section 42 CFR § 455.410(b).
- All prescribing practitioners treating Medicaid participants must enroll with Medicaid via the ePREP portal **as soon as possible**, and **no later than April 15, 2024**.
- Please see the [Provider Alert](#) dated February 23, 2024.

Operations Updates

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month

- Tuesday, March 12 is National Gambling Disorder Screening Day. Providers who wish to participate can view more information on the Optum Maryland website, [here](#). (See “In the Spotlight” section of the website homepage.)

Use of the Unfunded Span on Authorizations for Facilities

- Optum Maryland wishes to remind facilities to utilize the unfunded span to obtain authorizations for patients they believe will obtain Medicaid coverage.
- When the authorization is obtained using the unfunded span, as soon as the patient’s Medicaid coverage is active, the provider can bill if authorization was approved based on medical necessity criteria.

Uninsured Eligibility Requests

- Uninsured applications may only be submitted for retroactive eligibility back 14 days from the date of submission of the application.
- A new Uninsured span may only be requested up to 30 days before an existing span expires. The “registration date” entered should be the day after the current open span ends.

Operations Updates

Provider Messaging

- Optum continues to send communications to providers' Incedo Download folders. Please check this folder regularly to check for any new messages.
- A guide to accessing and downloading messages in this folder can be [viewed here](#).

Upcoming Provider Training Opportunities – March 2024

Authorization/Service Request

Thursday, March 14, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., EDT

To Register, [Click Here](#)

Supported Employment – Provider (SE-P)

Thursday, March 28, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., EDT

To Register, [Click Here](#)

Operations Updates

Reminder of Claim Submission Methods

We wish to remind providers of their options for claim submission that can be utilized, if needed, as an alternative to their usual method of claim entry.

- Claim entry directly into the Incedo Provider Portal (IPP):
 - If you do not have an IPP login, you can gain access to the portal by obtaining a registration token, following the instructions in [this document](#). A training video is found [here](#).
 - Instructions and training on claims submission using the CMS 1500 form in the IPP can be found on the Optum Maryland website [here](#). A guide to using the IPP (including claim submission) is found [here](#).
 - UB-04 claims cannot be entered directly into the IPP, however an 837- file CAN be uploaded into the IPP if you are able to generate an 837.
 - 837 files loaded directly into Incedo may include up to 500 claims, maximum.
 - If creating an 837 format through alternate means, it is recommended that providers submit a test transaction to the EDI team via email (omd_edisupport@optum.com); the OMD EDI team will run it through a test environment to ensure it meets the minimum validation requirements which will help ensure a successful submission.
 - If you cannot generate an 837-file, UB-04 claims will need to be sent via postal mail.
- Paper claims can be mailed to Optum Maryland, P.O. Box 30531, Salt Lake City, UT 84130.
- Claims can be faxed to Optum at 844-913-0799.

Operations Updates - Reminders

Interest Payments for February 2024

- Interest payments now being sent monthly.
- Checks for the period February 1 – February 29, 2024, will be mailed by March 14, 2024.
- Letters and claim details will be delivered to the Incedo Download folder.

Reconciliation Emails

- Please ensure that all reconciliation-related correspondence is routed to Maryland.provpymt@optum.com and copy individual reconciliation manager email addresses.
- Even if you are communicating directly with a reconciliation manager, please copy Maryland.provpymt@optum.com on all emails.

Issue Reporting Process

- The process for reporting issues and concerns is to first contact the Optum Maryland call center to report an issue. A reference number will be given to you specific to the enquiry.
 - If it is necessary to escalate the issue, the reference number provided by the call center will be required.

Operations Updates - Reminders

Sending Postal Mail to Optum Maryland

Checks and Financial Correspondence: Optum Maryland P.O. Box 30532 Salt Lake City, UT 84130	Claims, Grievances Complaints and all other NON-FINANCIAL related correspondence: Optum Maryland P.O. Box 30531 Salt Lake City, UT 84130
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Providers are asked to ensure that their contact information (mailing address, email address, phone number, etc.) is updated/correct in MMIS (via ePREP) for important correspondence.

Please check the Dashboard in the Incedo Provider Portal for important notifications including system downtime and new downloads

- Optum will use the Download folder within Incedo as one means of delivering important information.

Provider Questions

Provider Council Information

Slide decks from previous meetings can be found on [Maryland.Optum.com](https://maryland.optum.com/content/ops-maryland/maryland/en/bh-providers/provider-council-information.html) at the following link:
<https://maryland.optum.com/content/ops-maryland/maryland/en/bh-providers/provider-council-information.html>

- **The next Provider Council meeting will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024**
- Meeting reminders will be sent at the beginning of the month.

Frequently Used Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

Maryland Public Behavioral Health System 1-800-888-1965

- Option 1 Participants
- Option 2 Providers

Maryland Provider Relations - marylandproviderrelations@optum.com

Token and Incedo Provider Portal Registration questions - omd_providerregistration@optum.com (Please note the underscore in this email address: “omd_providerregistration...”)

Maryland Provider Payments - maryland.provpymt@optum.com

Maryland EDI Team – omd_edisupport@optum.com (please note the underscore in this email address: “omd_edisupport...”)

To register for Provider Alerts - marylandproviderrelations@optum.com

Thank you

Appendix Items

State Opioid Response Grant Newsletter

FALL 2023

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Introduction

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with valuable information and resources from the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) about the Maryland State Opioid Response Grant (SOR) projects and updates about our accomplishments. SOR projects play a critical role in combating the overdose crisis that is impacting the lives of many Marylanders. Read up on the latest developments, current events, webinars, trainings, and success stories associated with SOR. This grant is funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and provides support for Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery services in Maryland with the goal of decreasing overdose from opioids and stimulants through initiatives that provide needed services to fight the overdose crisis.

Welcome Deputy Secretary Alyssa Lord

Alyssa Lord is the new Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). She brings more than 20 years of experience in community and population health. Ms. Lord has focused her efforts on working collaboratively across local, city, state, and federal entities to improve the health outcomes across the lifespan.

Prior to joining MDH, Ms. Lord served in a number of leadership positions that combined direct service, advocacy, policy, and strategy in New York and New Jersey. Most recently she was Vice President, Healthcare Strategy at a large (\$120 million+) housing, healthcare, and workforce development nonprofit where she was responsible for setting the vision for healthcare, behavioral health, and substance use services for homeless and unstably housed New Yorkers. In previous positions she led the implementation of care coordination services for clinically, behaviorally and socially complex Medicaid, dually enrolled, and special needs plans beneficiaries. She was also responsible for establishing a university-community partnership in West Philadelphia that led to the implementation of a school-based health center/federally qualified health center and the development of an innovative health careers curriculum for middle and high school students. Ms. Lord earned Master's degrees from New York University and the London School of Economics.

SOR Briefing for Secretary of Health

On May 1, 2023, under the direction of the BHA executive leadership, the SOR team had the privilege of briefing the new Maryland Department of Health Secretary Laura Herrera Scott, on the history, goals, current initiatives and outcomes of the State Opioid Response Grant in Maryland.

SOR III, Year One Stats

Here are some results of **Maryland's impact on reducing opioid overdoses** through August 31:

 **54,904**

Number of individuals served

 **1,172**

Number of youth served

 **1,908**

Number of individuals who started medication for opioid use disorder

 **78,070**

Number of peer encounters

 **19,073**

Number of individuals receiving care coordination

 **56,967 DOSES**

Number naloxone doses distributed

 **20,054**

Number of individuals trained in naloxone administration

Food Crisis (Averted)



As you may be aware, SAMHSA previously allowed up to \$3/day per participant for the purchase of snacks for individuals participating in SOR funded activities; however, in the SOR III Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), SAMHSA disallowed SOR funds for this purpose. BHA informed its partner organizations of this change and were asked to reallocate the unexpended funds for food to other line items within their budgets.

BHA recognizes that for certain SOR-funded initiatives, food is an essential component of treatment. BHA worked with entities to identify alternative funding sources to fully cover the cost of food that was allocated within their original budget submissions for SOR III.

Government Performance and Results Act

The BHA Applied Research and Evaluation Team will be collecting SOR II No Cost Extension and SOR III Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) interview submissions until the new vendor is onboarded for SOR III. We have created a [GPRA resource webpage](#) that will serve as a hub for the GPRA data collection and submission process.

GPRA Eligible Programs:

The following SOR-funded programs are required to offer clients participation in the GPRA evaluation:

- Adult Recovery Houses
- Contingency Management
- Crisis Beds (for stays 48 hours or longer)
- Intensive Care Coordination
- Medication Adherence Technology - EMOCHA
- Medication Adherence Technology - Pill Dispensers in OTPs
- Medication Assisted Treatment in Detention Centers
- Young Adult Recovery Housing

Updated GPRA Interview Tool

SAMHSA released an updated GPRA interview tool that must be used for all interviews beginning January 21, 2023. This updated tool has removed questions that were deemed unnecessary and streamlined sections of the data collection process to make it easier for both the interviewer and the client. Please visit the MD GPRA page to access the reporting tool: [GPRA Reporting Webpage](#).

GPRA Interview Submission:

You will now submit all GPRA interviews using Qualtrics instead of RedCAP. The survey site looks different from RedCAP, but functions in much of the same way. In Qualtrics you can:

1. Upload a scanned copy of the GPRA Interview Tool
2. Enter the data manually, or
3. Both upload a scanned copy and enter the data manually.

Any of these options are sufficient for submitting completed interviews.

Budget Revisions



This year, we were required to add more detail than ever to our SOR III budget justifications for each initiative that is funded through this grant. Moving forward, budget line items — such as purchase of care, travel, advertising, other supplies and human services contracts — will need to be accompanied by a justification and unit cost breakdown.

SAMHSA site Visit 2023

Day 1 **Presentation to SAMHSA**

Day 2 **Visit to Gaudenzia
Visit to Baltimore Harm
Reduction Coalition**

The SAMHSA site visit conducted July 20-21, 2023 for the Maryland State Opioid Response (SOR) 2020 No Cost Extension (NCE) and SOR 2022 was a success! The SOR team and other BHA program staff presented an overview of the Maryland opioid crisis and challenges, along with a summary of all the SOR program initiatives. The SAMHSA Grants Projects Officers led a question and answers session with the BHA SOR program leads, visited Gaudenzia's crisis beds and the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition where they were able to see first hand the wonderful work our providers are doing for the community. We are grateful for the BHA program leads, our providers, and the Opioid Operational Command Center for making this possible.

In the Spotlight

Electronic Mobile Comprehensive Health Application

Electronic Mobile Comprehensive Health Application (EMOCHA) is a medication adherence application that delivers a digital form of Directly Observed Therapy, a practice used by public health departments across the country for over 40 years. In this model, a healthcare worker virtually observes a patient taking every dose of their medication through the application on a phone or laptop and supports the patient in addressing social and behavioral adherence barriers. Behavioral Health System Baltimore successfully implemented the EMOCHA project at the University of Maryland School of Medicine through their outpatient treatment services for opioid use disorder.



Maryland Primary Care Program/Medication for Opioid Use Disorder

The Maryland Department of Health/Program Management Office (MDH/PMO) is seeking to provide participating Maryland Primary Care Program (MDPCP) practices with the resources necessary to implement Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) services. MDPCP currently has over **530 practices across the state**, including **12 Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FHQCs)**. The MDPCP/MOUD program addresses a critical component of Maryland's State Opioid Response Plan to expand access to life-saving medications for treating opioid use disorder, using the Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs that can be prescribed in office-based settings. The MDPCP/MOUD initiative is set to begin implementation in SOR III Year 2 starting September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2024.

SOR Success Story



Ms. KN came to Gaudenzia as a referral from the WARMS center. Ms. KN is a 67-year-old African American woman who is non-ambulatory and has dementia. When Ms. KN came to us she did not have any support from family, friends, or outside agencies (that she could recall). Ms. KN did not have health insurance, identification documents, or funding. Ms. KN came to us initially for substance abuse yet her need for individualized care and assisted living became a priority. Ms. KN now has both Medicare and Medicaid and she is now able to be assessed properly for mental and physical health needs. Ms. KN now has access to the family including her sister and aunts as additional support. Ms. KN was transferred to an assisted living facility and attends meetings daily. Ms. KN was able to regain access to her bank account, bank card, retirement, and SNAP benefits. She is waiting to hear back from SSI regarding disability funding. Ms. KN is well on her way to healthy supportive living with the efforts of Gaudenzia.

Mark Your Calendar


End of Year Progress Report - Due by December 29, 2023!

You can begin to prepare your reports now based on the following:

- Major accomplishments for each of your approved activities (i.e., treatment, recovery support and prevention). Include outcomes data for each activity; and
- Barriers and how you have addressed them. Include any barriers still left to address.

Carryover Funding

SOR III Year One will be due by the end of December 2023
Those funds are not approved until the following year and dispersed in March 2024.



ASKED & ANSWERED: SOR IIIFAQS

▶ Find and review the full
[SOR FAQ document](#)



[Behavioral Health Administration](#)
[55 Wade Avenue](#)
[Vocational Rehabilitation Bldg.](#)
[Catonsville, MD 21228](#)
[410-767-6500](#)
Health.maryland.gov/bha

Requesting Assistance



Contacting us by using the right method will expedite resolution of your issue.

Use of self-service capabilities that are available (training videos, provider alerts) will expedite resolution of your issue

Item	Method to Contact Optum
Authorization Backdating	Instructions can be found in this alert: 3.29.23 Backdating Exception Authorization Request.pdf (optum.com)
Password resets	omd_incedo_admin@optum.com
Training Assistance	Optum Maryland - Provider Training & Education
Claim status	Contact the Call Center at 1-800-888-1965
Authorization Corrections	Instructions for submitting authorization corrections: Changes to Submitting Authorization Corrections-APPROVED.pdf (optum.com)
Optum MD FAX	1-855-293-5407 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do not fax claims, letters, or forms (other than the ones below) to this fax number.This fax is only used for MCO/DORS Release of information forms. Access the contact us menu on the web site for a description of the intake areas for these items.

- Known Incedo system issues will first be reported on the Incedo dashboard.
- Issues that extend beyond one business day will be posted on the [Optum Maryland website](#).
- Issues affecting log-in to the Incedo portal will be posted on the [Optum Maryland website](#) as soon as they are discovered.

MDH Updates

Audit of Denied Claims

- In a provider alert dated July 17, 2023, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) announced that a project to audit denials for claims originally received by Optum in CY2020 and CY2021 began on July 1, 2023.
- As a result of this audit, Maryland service providers who billed the Public Behavioral Health System (excluding laboratories and acute care general hospitals) may benefit from this audit of denials.
- Detailed reports will be made available to providers, accompanied by a summary showing the total billed dollars of the denied claims. This information will be delivered to the Incedo Download folder.
- In the next quarter (July-September 2023), providers will need to ensure they have an Incedo “Download” folder to facilitate delivery of this information through the Optum portal.
- If providers have a balance due for estimated payment or other reprocessing projects, including negative balance, those balances will be satisfied first. Any reprocessed claims will yield PRAs so providers will be aware of any benefit from this project.
- Providers who are concerned about 2019 claims that were submitted to the previous Administrative Services Organization (Beacon Health Options), not to Optum, will be informed of a process to dispute these denials in a future provider alert.
- Please see the [July 17](#) provider alert for full details.
- Please send questions to marylandproviderrelations@optum.com

TPL/COB Processing and Reprocessing

TPL/COB Processing and Reprocessing

- **2020/2021 TPL Claims Paid as Primary then down adjusted**

- Claims were paid as primary, then retracted based on updated TPL files from MDH loaded to Incedo
- **DOS through 12/2022 are complete**
 - **2022 Claims**
 - Processed 347 claims with \$65k
 - Paid on checkwrite 12/1/2022
- **Optum continues to align with MDH and implement processing requirements for the post public health emergency processing of COB claims (See 8/2/2022 provider alert for details).**
 - This will include an update to the COB portion of the handbook and other provider notifications.

- **Important information**

- **See Provider Alert: 9-22-22: New: Process for Electronically Submitting COB Claims with an EOB**
 - Now able to submit EOBs for \$0 pay from another payor through the Portal:
 - When other carrier paid, complete boxes 11d, 9 a and d, and box 29
 - Submit the claim electronically through the portal or 837 process
 - See the provider alert for specific/detailed instructions
- **See Provider Alert: 8-5-22: Issues Impacting Participant Eligibility**
- **Medicare Advantage Plans:**
 - Update guidance will result in the following:
 - Claims submitted to OPTUM will deny for Service Payable by Other Primary Carrier
 - Providers must submit to Medicaid via paper or portal submission
 - Instructions can be found: <https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/pages/provider-information.aspx>
 - E Medicaid Portal and Instructions: <https://encrypt.emdhealthchoice.org/emedicaid/>
- **MDCR Crossover Claims:**
 - Do not send to Optum
 - These will result in denial of Service Payable by other Primary Carrier
 - Will automatically cross from Optum to MDH for processing
- **Participant disagrees with TPL Record:**
 - Process outline in previous meeting notes