




Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

MassHealth
Mental Health Center Bulletin 28
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TO: Mental Health Centers Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Douglas S. Brown, Acting Commissioner 
RE: **Services Provided by a Medicare-Noncertified Clinician**

Background

This bulletin outlines billing procedures for claims submitted for dually entitled (Medicare/MassHealth) members receiving behavioral-health services performed by clinicians who are not Medicare certified providers. (Clinicians who do not meet Medicare's clinical criteria are "noncertified," and therefore cannot bill Medicare for their services.) This bulletin supersedes the regulations in Transmittal Letter MHC-34, dated April 2002. The information in this bulletin contains specific MassHealth electronic billing guidelines, which are not described in the HIPAA implementation guides for the 837 professional transaction, as well as instructions for paper submissions.

Providers must continue to bill Medicare for all services provided by a certified Medicare provider before billing MassHealth. The procedures in this bulletin should be used only when a service is not reimbursable by Medicare because a noncertified clinician provided the service.

837P Transaction

When submitting an 837 professional (837P) transaction for services performed by a noncertified clinician, providers must populate the other payer loops (2320 and 2330) in the transaction with Medicare's information and the MassHealth-assigned carrier code of 085, even though the service has not been billed to Medicare. In addition, do not populate any Medicare payments, coinsurance, or deductibles in the other payer loops (2320 and 2330) in the transaction. Do not populate the service-line adjudication in the 2430 loop.

If the member also has commercial insurance, then you must bill the insurance before billing MassHealth. Providers must also populate the other payer loops (2320, 2330, and 2430) in the 837P transaction with all applicable third-party-insurance information.

***Paper and EMC
Submissions***

The paper and current electronic (EMC) billing procedure has not changed. When billing for services provided by a noncertified clinician, providers may submit the claim on the medical-services claim form (no. 9) or the EMC format, using the appropriate behavioral-health service code. In lieu of attaching the explanation of noncovered Medicare benefits (EONMB), providers should enter a code of 01 in the patient status field (Item 19 on claim form no. 9) to indicate that the services were provided by a noncertified clinician.

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact MassHealth Provider Services at 617-628-4141 or 1-800-325-5231.
