PROVIDER ALERT

Clarification on Billing for Professional Services in the Emergency Room

October 31, 2022

Target Audience: Emergency Room Professional Services

Clarification of 11/8/2021 and 12/17/2021 Alerts

On December 17, 2021, MDH issued a provider alert rescinding Transmittal 21-22 (dated November 8, 2021). After provider feedback, we are providing clarification.

Clarification: In early 2022, Optum Maryland began processing claims for professional services rendered by physicians in the ER *regardless* of specialty type, as long as the specialty is loaded into the provider file, and reprocessed claims that were previously denied because they lacked a specialty code.

Provider Action Required: To prevent unnecessary denials, please add any specialty for which you are certified or board eligible to your provider file via ePrep.

Previously, providers who were practicing within their scope of license, rendering these services, and who may not have had a specialty on their file, would receive denials. Upon further review with the Medicaid Behavioral Health team, many of these providers were either board certified or board eligible for these types of services but lacked the specialty code on their file. The team has been working with those providers to update their provider files in ePrep.

For physicians, if you are continuing to experience a denial for a service rendered in the Emergency Room for a carved out diagnosis of Mental Health or Poisoning (referenced in COMAR 10.67.08.02), please contact Optum Maryland at marylandproviderrelations@optum.com and reference this provider alert to have your specific provider file and associated specialty added to their provider load.

MDH teams continue working to update associated documents, including the fee schedule and the provider manual, which will incorporate the information contained in this alert.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team