



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hospitals
Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)
ValueOptions

FROM: *Susan J. Tucker*
Susan J. Tucker, Executive Director
Office of Health Services

RE: Clarification of behavioral health carve out related to certain pregnancy diagnoses - ICD 9 diagnosis codes 648.3x and 649.4x, now ICD 10 diagnosis codes O99340 through O99345 and O99310 through O99324.

DATE: December 4, 2015

The Department has received inquiries from hospital providers regarding behavioral health carve-out diagnosis codes related to mental health and SUD diagnoses during pregnancy. The purpose of carving out these codes was to allow ValueOptions to pay for behavioral health services for pregnant women. Unfortunately, hospitals have identified recent coding conventions that require them to place these diagnoses first even when the service is related to medical care for the pregnant women, including the delivery itself. We have discussed this problem with the Medicaid Payor Relations Task Force of the Maryland Hospital Association.

Following our discussions, Maryland Medicaid agreed to instruct hospitals to place these behavioral health diagnoses codes for pregnant women in the primary position only when the pregnant woman is receiving mental health treatment or treatment for a substance use disorder in accordance with carve out criteria specified under COMAR 10.09.70.02. If the woman is receiving somatic services related to her pregnancy, providers should use the somatic diagnosis in the primary position. This will allow medical claims to be paid appropriately by MCOs and behavioral health claims to be paid by ValueOptions. Please note that hospitals must always verify eligibility and seek appropriate authorizations from the responsible party, whether that is an MCO, ValueOptions or the Department.

If you have questions about this memo, please contact Maryam Baharloo at 410-767-1724.