



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor • Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor • Dennis Schrader, Secretary

Behavioral Health Administration

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The Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) will reimburse providers for the treatment of problem gambling through Beacon Health Options Maryland (Beacon) as of January 1, 2018. The current reimbursement for gambling treatment through Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore (BHSB) will discontinue December 31, 2017. Some gambling services are covered under the Medicaid benefits package. For services and settings that Medicaid does not cover, State-only funds will be used; they will be managed under Beacon. This memo refers to the services that are ineligible for Medicaid coverage, as well as for services to non-Medicaid covered individuals.

Reimbursement for problem gambling services is available to support assessment, individual and group therapy for persons with gambling disorders and/or loved ones. Treatment services are to be provided in accordance with the American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for patient placement. The following ASAM levels of care for those who meet diagnostic criteria for gambling disorder are covered:

- Ambulatory Level 1 and 2.1
- Residential Level 3.3 and 3.5

Level 1, individual or group counseling can be also reimbursed for individuals with gambling disorder or problems related to life-style – gambling (Z72.6). Individual and group counseling provided to loved ones of individuals with problem gambling are reimbursable.

Eligible providers

- Ambulatory SRD programs for Level 1 and Level 2.1
- Residential SRD programs for Level 3.3 and 3.5
- Outpatient Mental Health Clinics (OMHC)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
- Private Practitioners (either in solo or group practice)

Provider Registration

- Behavioral health treatment programs must be licensed in accordance with COMAR 10.63 as a substance use, mental health or integrated behavioral health program at the appropriate ASAM levels of care.
- Private practitioners must be in good standing with the appropriate professional board.
- Programs and private practitioners must ensure that staff are trained and competent to provide services to individuals with problem gambling and/or loved ones.
- Programs and private practitioners who are registered Medicaid providers with Beacon Health Options are automatically eligible to be reimbursed for problem gambling services.
- Treatment programs and private practitioners who are NOT already registered as a Medicaid provider with Beacon Health Options Maryland must submit a brief application to BHA for approval to register. Further information on registration will be sent out through a Provider Alert.
- Registration as a Medicaid provider is not mandatory in order to receive reimbursement for these services.

Reimbursement

Gambling treatment services will be reimbursed at the same rates currently used under Medicaid. Payment through Beacon for gambling services must be accepted as full reimbursement for those services.

Reimbursement for gambling treatment services is only available when the service provided is not already covered by Medicaid. Claims for services that qualify for reimbursement through Medicaid should continue to be submitted to Beacon.

Programs must ensure staff are trained and competent to provide services to individuals with problem gambling. The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling is available to provide problem gambling training and clinical consultation at no cost to programs. Contact the Center at www.mdproblemgambling.com or phone (1) 667-214-2120 for further information.

Reimbursement for problem gambling services will be subject to Beacon auditing. Combination of service rules apply. (http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/provider/clin_ut/Combination-of-SUD-Services.pdf)

Provider Interest Meeting

BHA will host a Provider Interest Meeting on December 19, 2017 from 1:00-3:00 to provide an overview of this change and answer questions about this service. It will be held in Rice Auditorium on Spring Grove campus. To register for the Provider Interest Meeting, click on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/provider-interest-meeting-problem-gambling-services-reimbursement-tickets-40841007553>.

Additional information will be forthcoming in a future Beacon Provider Alert.