

Chapter 11

Provider Audits

Providers who participate in the Maryland Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS) are subject to announced and unannounced audits by Beacon Health Options. Providers must be in compliance with COMAR 10.09.36 and all applicable regulations associated with the service(s) rendered. .

Beacon will perform audits on PBHS programs including:

- Individual practitioners
- Group practitioners
- Inpatient hospitals
- Residential treatment centers
- Substance use disorder programs and providers
- Community mental health program providers
- Other licensed or approved programs, as directed

All audits include a review of:

- Staffing
- Documentation, including consents, uninsured eligibility documentation, assessments, treatment plans, and contact/progress notes
- Evaluation of service delivery
- Billing records

Providers may be selected for an audit based on unusual service patterns, billing outliers, high utilization, allegations of fraud and abuse, or at the recommendation of BHA and/or Medicaid. Beacon uses audit tools approved by Medicaid and the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). The audit tools can be found at: http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/provider/prv_info.html

Upon completion of an audit, Beacon will issue a report to be shared with the provider, BHA, Medicaid, and, as required, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Office of the Inspector General and Office of the Attorney General/Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Reports detail audit findings, billing retraction amounts and best practice recommendations. Providers are required to submit a program improvement plan for audit areas with less than 75 percent compliance rate.

If Beacon suspects fraudulent or unethical behavior, providers will be referred to the appropriate State enforcement entity. Audits resulting in State disciplinary action or a program improvement plan may require close monitoring by Beacon and will be subject to frequent audits.