



Inland Empire Health Plan



To: Medicare IPAs & Medicare PCPs
From: IEHP – Provider Relations
Date: April 3, 2020
Subject: **CORRECTION: UPDATED GUIDANCE on IEHP Responsibility for OTP Services - Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) for IEHP DualChoice Cal MediConnect (Medicare-Medicaid Plan) Members**

As of January 1, 2020, Medicare has implemented a new Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) benefit. Below are details on the new benefit for IEHP DualChoice Members.

New Medicare Benefits effective January 1, 2020

Medicare will pay **Medicare- enrolled Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)**, to deliver Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) treatment services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicare previously covered office-based Opioid Treatment with Buprenorphine and Naltrexone, but has historically not covered services furnished in OTP, which are the only entities authorized to use **Methadone** to treat OUD. Medicare coverage of OTPs is a new benefit that is anticipated to expand access to care.

***UPDATED GUIDANCE re: Responsibility for Authorization and Payment**

Upon additional review and consideration of the services provided as part of an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP), **IEHP has determined that the responsibility for authorization of OTP services and claims payment will be IEHP’s responsibility, not the Member’s assigned IPA.**

IPAs, please forward any authorization requests for OTP services to IEHP’s UM department fax: (909) 890-5751

Payments will be bundled to the OTP Providers.

Medicare OTP Benefits

FDA-approved opioid agonist and antagonist medication-assisted treatment (MAT) medications

Dispensing and administration of MAT medications (if applicable)

Substance use counseling

Individual and group therapy

Toxicology testing

Intake activities

Periodic Assessments

Medi-Cal vs. Medicare Benefits

No Change with Medi-Cal OUD treatment and benefit

For dually eligible beneficiaries (those enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid) currently receiving OTP services through Medi-Cal, **Medicare will be the primary payer for OTP services**. CMS will issue guidance to States to clarify how Medi-Cal can pay OTP providers that are not yet enrolled in Medicare, so State Medicaid Agencies can uphold their responsibilities as the payer of last resort while promoting continuity of care for dually eligible beneficiaries.

Medi-Cal must pay for services delivered to these beneficiaries by OTP Providers who are not yet enrolled in Medicare but are enrolled in Medi-Cal, to the extent the services are covered in the State plan.

Medi-Cal will later recoup those payments made to the OTP, back to the date the Provider can begin billing Medicare (30 days prior to the effective date of the OTP's Medicare enrollment), and OTP will then bill Medicare for those services.

How To Become an OTP Provider:

Providers must possess a full certification through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMSHA) and must be enrolled in Medicare (**cannot enroll as an OTP Provider through Medicare without having certification through SAMHSA first**).

For information about the certification of Opioid Treatment Programs, contact the SAMSHA Division of Pharmacologic Therapies at (240)- 276-2700. For assistance with the Opioid Treatment Program Extranet, contact the OTP helpdesk at [OTP- Help@jbsinternational.com](mailto:OTP-Help@jbsinternational.com) or 1-866-348-5741.

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at: www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence.