

Transition Plan for COVID-19 Alternative Payment Arrangement (APA)

As per previous bulletins, many providers have transitioned back to a fee-for-service (FFS)/claims-based payment mechanism for services rendered. However, due to the uncertain circumstances posed from COVID-19, some providers have remained on the COVID-19 Alternative Payment Arrangement (APA). **This Bulletin serves as official notification regarding the transition plan for those service providers who are currently on the COVID-19 APA.**

Community Behavioral Health (CBH) is committed to ongoing partnership with the provider community and continues to work in conjunction with the Department of Behavioral Health & Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PA DHS) Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). These partnerships have resulted in the approval to extend the COVID-19 APA through the third quarter of calendar year 2021 (September 30, 2021) for community-based providers that are currently receiving funding through this payment mechanism. **Providers with only in-network bed-based services that are currently on the COVID-19 APA will transition back to FFS as of July 1, 2021, unless they request otherwise. Those requests will be reviewed individually for potential approval, based upon rationale provided.** Providers who have both community-based and bed-based levels of care will continue their current arrangement through September 30, 2021 or can select one of these payment mechanisms (FFS or APA) for their community-based portfolio and one for their bed-based portfolio (selection can be made using the link below). However, providers cannot make program-specific payment designations.

Providers can request continuation of the COVID-19 APA by completing [this form](#) by Friday, June 11, 2021. Providers who are not making any changes to their current payment mechanism and/or providers with only bed-based services that are willing to shift back to FFS as of July 1, 2021 do not need to complete the form; only bed-based providers currently under the APA who wish to remain on the APA (per above) must complete the form for consideration of continuation.

All approvals will be effective July 1, 2021.

To aid in the transition of all providers to FFS by October 1, 2021, the COVID-19 APA payments will be extended one week for the remaining payments. Below are the scheduled payment dates:

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Service Month	COVID-19 APA Payment Date
July 2021	August 4, 2021
August 2021	September 8, 2021
September 2021	October 13, 2021

While CBH is committed to supporting our provider community, we wish to take this opportunity to reinforce the ongoing need for providers to complete the following in a timely manner (per [Provider Bulletin 20-08](#)):

1. For providers on the COVID-19 APA, monthly expense reports, submitted to CBH.ExpenseReportSubmission@Phila.Gov, the 15th day of the following month.
2. Timely claims submission with the use of appropriate telehealth place of service modifiers.

CBH has created internal monitoring mechanisms to ensure that our members are equitably and readily receiving services from the provider community. Therefore, CBH reserves the right to recoup some portion of the APA funds if an investigation shows less than optimal performance and accessibility.

We thank you for your ongoing partnership through this difficult time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Provider Relations Representative.