

## PROVIDER ALERT

### Billing Practice: CMS 1500 Billing for Mental Health and Poisoning Diagnoses in the Emergency Department

November 7, 2022

**Target Audience: Emergency Department Professional Services**

#### Clarification of 11/8/2021, 12/17/2021 and 10/31/2022 Alerts

This alert impacts Physicians and Nurse Practitioners who are employed by an Emergency Medicine Physician Group and work in an Emergency Department setting.

**Clarification:** Emergency Medicine Physician Groups should bill the Behavioral Health ASO for services provided in the ED when the diagnosis is Mental Health or Poisoning diagnosis. **Prior alerts** inaccurately indicated that **only** the below specialties could bill for these services:

- PT 20 (Psychiatric specialty)
- PT 15 (Psychologist)
- PT 23 (Certified Nurse Practitioner with Psychiatric Mental Health certification)
- PT 24 (Nurse Psychotherapist);

Other physician specialties and nurse practitioners without the psychiatric specialties are eligible for reimbursement when working under an Emergency Medicine Physician Group and rendering services in the Emergency Department.

Optum will automatically load the following physician specialties into its system.

- 016 Pediatrics
- 043 Emergency Physicians
- 050 Neurology
- 051 Neurology w/ Child Specialty
- 052 Psychiatry
- 053 Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- 061 Pediatric Neurology

Also, Optum will load all providers employed under an Emergency Medicine Practice who have billed for POS 23 (ED) regardless of specialty.

If you experience any difficulties with this process, please contact Optum Maryland at 1-800-888-1965 or [marylandproviderrelations@optum.com](mailto:marylandproviderrelations@optum.com) and reference this provider alert by Title and Date.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team