

Provider Network News

Maternal Mental Health Treatment

In accordance with Senate Bill (S.B.) 750, 86 Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, HHSC established MCO requirements around the referral of members with MMH conditions to an identified network of maternal mental health providers. MMH conditions, including the exacerbation or reemergence of pre-existing MMH conditions, are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth. They include conditions such as perinatal and postpartum depression, anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar illness (which may include psychotic symptoms), and substance use disorders, occurring within 12 months postpartum.

According to Title 1, Texas Administrative Code §370.12, Maternal Depression Screening and Title 25, Texas Administrative Code §33.60, Texas Health Steps Provider Responsibilities, Medicaid and CHIP MCOs are required to reimburse for a postpartum depression screening at least once in the 12-month postpartum period, regardless of whether the mother is also an enrollee. This section below outlines Medicaid MCO requirements to track positive behavioral health screenings identified through **validated screening tools**, identify network providers who are appropriate to treat or diagnose an MMH condition, and follow-up with members who have screened positive for an MMH condition.

The goal of the MMH treatment network is to increase the accessibility of clinical postpartum services for Medicaid members, ultimately improving maternal health outcomes and promoting overall well-being for mothers and their families. To help achieve this goal, MCOs and providers will collaborate to facilitate the referral of members who screen positive for an MMH condition to identified MMH providers in their networks to confirm diagnosis and provide treatment as deemed



medically necessary. Further information around MMH implementation requirements can be found in the UCM 3.34 Online Provider Directory and UCM Chapter 16.1.15.3.9 Maternal Mental Health Treatment Network. To help assist with this initiative PCHP offers assistance in connecting members with appropriate diagnostic and MMH treatment services following positive screen and follow-up to ensure services were accessed. As appropriate, we connect members to additional resources. In addition, PCHP's call center / hotline can provide information to members and providers regarding the availability of MMH providers in the PCHP network. This includes assisting members/LARs/Guardians in scheduling appointments with appropriate providers.

Providers can submit positive screens to PCHP via email at PCHPUMCaseManagement@phhs.org.

We look forward to working with our provider population to increase accessibility and improve maternal health outcomes.