



MONTANA HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS NOTICE

January 3, 2019

All Mental Health Providers

Effective Immediately

Outpatient Psychotherapy Limits

The Montana Administrative Registry published and adopted [MAR 37-828 \(see link\)](#) <http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ShowNoticeFile.asp?TID=8256> which adopted to change the number of outpatient psychotherapy sessions that youth who do not have a severe emotional disturbance (SED) may receive without prior authorization, from 24 to 10 sessions. After the tenth outpatient session, a youth must meet SED criteria for additional outpatient sessions to be deemed medically necessary. This was effective March 1, 2018.

Montana Medicaid implemented a system change to enforce the policy requiring a youth have a SED diagnosis after the 10th session in a state fiscal year. It has come to our attention that this change has caused some system issues including denied claims for youth five and younger depending on specific ICD-10 codes. These claims are denying in error because the SED definition for youth five and under includes any relatable diagnosis to that age group so long as provider documents the functional impairment criteria. The definition of SED for all youth is located within the [Children's Mental Health Bureau Medicaid Services Manual at the following link: https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/dsd/documents/CMB/providermanuals/CMHBMedicaidServicesProviderManualjuly2018.pdf](https://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/dsd/documents/CMB/providermanuals/CMHBMedicaidServicesProviderManualjuly2018.pdf)

As of December 20, 2018, the claims system has been updated to accept relatable diagnosis for youth. **Please rebill any denied claims for youth 5 and younger.**

To check a youth's number of sessions in a state fiscal year please call Montana Provider Relations at the contact information at the bottom this notice.

Contact Information

[Jamie Olsen, Children's Mental Health Bureau Analyst, email jgainesolsen@mt.gov](mailto:jgainesolsen@mt.gov)

or telephone (406) 444-7392.

[For additional information, contact Montana Provider Relations at \(800\) 624-3958 or \(406\) 442-1837 or email \[MTPRHelpdesk@conduent.com\]\(mailto:MTPRHelpdesk@conduent.com\).](#)

[Visit the Montana Healthcare Programs Provider Information website at https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov.](https://medicaidprovider.mt.gov)