



MEMORANDUM

TO: CHIP Health Providers
FROM: El Paso Health Plans
DATE: April 20, 2022
RE: Effective 07/01/2022 Co-Payments Prohibited for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, HHSC waived copayments for office visits beginning in March 2020. To comply with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equality Act (Pub. L. 110-343), HHSC is prohibiting co-payments for CHIP Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (MH/SUD) outpatient office visits and residential treatment services on July 1, 2022. This prohibition is not contingent on the public health emergency.

Effective July 1, 2022, CHIP providers are prohibited from collecting co-payments for office visits and residential treatment services for mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

42 CFR 457.496(d)(2) prohibits any financial requirement (e.g. co-payment) or treatment limitation for MH/SUD benefits in any classification that is more restrictive than the predominant financial requirement or treatment limitation of that type applied to medical or surgical benefits in the same classification. To comply with this federal requirement, HHSC will remove CHIP copayments for MH/SUD outpatient and residential services.

HHSC will amend the UMCM to reflect the prohibition of co-payments for outpatient MH/SUD office visits; until that time, this notice serves as official notification of that change

If you have any questions regarding this communication please feel free to contact our Provider Relations Department at 915-532-3778.