

MHCP provider news and updates

March 31 – April 13, 2020

Systems announcements

Watch this space for information about MN–ITS availability, technical information and other systems notifications.

MinnesotaCare payment grace period granted

The Minnesota Department of Revenue will grant a 60-day payment grace period for MinnesotaCare monthly and quarterly estimated payments due Apr. 15, 2020. These payments are now due June 15, 2020. See the [MinnesotaCare Payment Grace Period](#) announcement from the Department of Revenue for more information. (pub. 4/13/20)

Eliminating financial barriers to COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment

On Mar. 20, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued [Executive Orders 20-11 and 20-12](#), granting the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) emergency temporary authority to change administrative and regulatory requirements for state programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These executive orders aim to ensure access to services and protect the health of over 1 million Minnesotans, including older adults, individuals with disabilities, young families with children and individuals with mental illness—groups likely to be significantly impacted by COVID-19.

Effective Mar. 19, 2020, DHS has removed any cost-sharing for the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 for all Medical Assistance (Medicaid) and MinnesotaCare members. Under state law, some members are currently subject to copays and a family deductible for diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 (Minn. Stat., 256B.0631; 256L.03, subd. 5). This applies to members in both fee for service and managed care.

This action is taken to help address financial concerns that might prevent someone who needs testing or treatment for COVID-19 from seeking appropriate care that would result in an increased risk to public health. The federal government will pay 100 percent of the costs of COVID-19 testing, treatment and the corresponding office visit for Medical Assistance and Minnesota Care.

This executive order and consequent waiver on cost-sharing for COVID-19 remains in effect until the peacetime emergency is terminated or until it is rescinded by proper authority. (pub. 4/10/20)

Emergency payments for COVID-19 costs offered for nursing facilities

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) is offering expedited, emergency payments to Minnesota Health Care Programs enrolled nursing facilities providers located in Minnesota for costs directly related to COVID-19 incurred on or after Mar. 13, 2020, per [Minnesota Statute 12A.10](#). That statute allows providers who incur additional costs resulting from disasters to apply for expedited reimbursement.

On Mar. 31, 2020, the Nursing Facility Rates and Policy Division conducted a webinar and PowerPoint presentation which provided instructions for submitting the reimbursement application. That [webinar](#) was recorded and is available for those who were unable to participate in the live session. Providers who did not receive the reimbursement application and instruction forms, or who would like a copy of the PowerPoint, can email the Long-Term Care Policy Center at dhs.ltcpolicycenter@state.mn.us.

A frequently asked questions list is being developed and should be posted on the [Nursing Facility Provider Portal](#) webpage by the end of April.

Visit the [Waivers and modifications](#) webpage and scroll to “Changes under existing authority to respond to COVID-19,” and select **No. 3: Expediting payments to nursing homes (CV01)** for information on actions taken by the commissioner. (pub. 4/9/20)

Washington Publishing Company (WPC) temporary link to X12 codes

WPC is experiencing issues with their website and is working to resolve them. WPC instructs providers to use <https://nex12.org/index.php/codes> for contact information and access to the X12 codes for the WPC until the WPC webpage is available. We will update this webpage when the WPC issues have been resolved. (pub. 4/3/20)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) Provider Manual section posted

We have posted a new [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) manual section of the MHCP Provider Manual. It will include a list of temporary modifications to policies and procedures that have been made to Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare programs. Unless listed in this manual section, all other program requirements continue to apply. Please refer to this manual section for the most up-to-date information. (pub. 4/2/20)

DHS extends prescription limit to 90 days for certain medications

In response to Gov. Tim Walz' COVID-19 pandemic [Emergency Executive Order 20-12](#), the Department of Human Services (DHS) has received federal approval to temporarily cover up to a 90-day supply of many noncontrolled prescription maintenance medications.

Under current state law, prescriptions for medications are limited to a 34-day supply ([Minnesota Statute, 256B.0625, subdivision 13](#)). Effective April 2, 2020, the DHS commissioner increased the prescription drug coverage limit for [certain therapeutic drug classes](#) to a 90-day supply for all fee-for-service Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare members.

DHS is not mandating that a 90-day supply of these medications be dispensed. Prescribers and pharmacists are expected to continue to use their professional and clinical judgment as to the appropriate quantity to dispense to members.

Claims for medications affected by this change do not require an override from the Provider Call Center. Contact the [Provider Call Center](#) to determine if overrides are available for medications **not included** in this initiative if the member has another insurance that has covered a 90-day supply of the medication. This extension in the prescription drug coverage limit applies to the fee-for-service pharmacy benefit. The managed care organizations (MCOs) may implement a 90-day supply program and you can obtain details of those programs from the [MCOs](#).

This executive order and consequent 90-day supply prescription limit extension for COVID-19 remains in effect until the peacetime emergency is terminated or until it is rescinded by proper authority. (pub. 4/2/20)

Provider revalidations postponed

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) is postponing provider revalidation efforts effective Apr. 1, 2020, in accordance with Executive Order 20-12. MHCP will not be sending revalidation notices to providers who are due to revalidate their enrollment to ensure providers remain enrolled and able to provide necessary services to members during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will update the MHCP provider news and updates webpage when the revalidation process resumes. (pub. 4/1/20)

Child and Teen Checkups (C&TC) well child visit prioritization guidance during COVID-19 pandemic

The benefit of attending a C&TC well visit and receiving necessary immunizations and screenings should be balanced with the risk of exposure to other children and adults with potential contagious diseases. Many providers are reviewing their daily workflows and practices in consideration of their patient population, safe practice capacity, clinic environment as well as guidance from the Minnesota Governor's executive orders. The current American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations for providing well visits and immunizations during the COVID-19 Pandemic as of Mar. 19, 2020 are:

- Newborn visits or infant weight checks
- Well child visits two years of age and younger, of special importance maintaining up to date immunization status
- Reschedule well visits for those in middle childhood and adolescence to a later date

See the AAP's [COVID-19 Clinical Guidance Q&A](#) webpage for more information about the AAP's recommendations. The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recognize that you may prioritize C&TC visits in your practice. The AAP's recommendations are not intended to replace or supersede institutional policies in place for clinics or health care systems.

See the AAP COVID-19 Clinical Guidance Q&A webpage as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Resources for Clinics and Healthcare Facilities](#) webpage to view options to help decrease the spread of COVID-19 with regard to well visits including the consideration of modifications to the structure of the clinic schedule and physical space.

For information specific to managing patients during the COVID-19 outbreak, see the following:

- MDH's [Health Care: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) webpage
- Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics [COVID-19](#) webpage
- CDC webpages:
 - [What Healthcare Personnel Should Know about Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection](#)
 - [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)

Email the C&TC programs at DHS at dhs.childteencheckups@state.mn.us or MDH at health.childteencheckups@state.mn.us if you have questions or need more information about prioritizing well child visits.

This is a collaborative communication from the Child and Teen Checkups teams at DHS and MDH. (pub. 4/1/20)

Withdrawal management services billing updates

Beginning Feb. 26, 2020, Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP)-enrolled withdrawal management (WM) providers can bill for WM services for fee-for-service members and partially bill WM room and board (R&B) service for managed care enrollees retroactive to their facility's license approval date.

Residential facility provider

For an episode of care with multiple levels of services, bill each level of service and the associated R&B service on a separate claim. Bill using the appropriate type of bill in an interim billing method.

Hospital provider

We are working on our system to allow for hospital billing.

Service agreement (SA)

- Fee-for-service (FFS) members – SA is required
- Managed care organization (MCO) enrollees – Bill WM R&B for MCO enrollees to the Minnesota Department of Human Services. SA is required for dates of service before Jan. 1, 2020. SA is not required for dates of service on and after Jan. 1, 2020.

Client placement authorization form

- To start a service agreement, complete and forward a [Client Placement Authorization DHS-2780 \(PDF\)](#) form to the member's county or tribe of residence.

- Rule 25 assessment is not required. Do not complete the Assessment Severity Rating.
- Enter the first date of contact as the assessment date.

Bill for level 3.2 clinically managed and level 3.7 medically monitored services as follows:

Service Description	Revenue Code	Type of Bill
Residential facility clinically managed Level 3.2	0900	86X
Residential facility medically monitored Level 3.7	0919	86X
Residential facility room & board	1002	86X

Type of Bill frequency (third digit) codes:

- xx1 – Admit through discharge claim
- xx2 – Interim-first claim (first claim in a series of continuous claims or interim billing)
- xx3 – Interim-continuing claim
- xx4 – Interim-last claim (discharge claim)
- xx7 – Replacement of prior claim
- xx8 – Void/cancel of prior claim

Bill with the appropriate patient status code, for example 30 for an interim continuing claim.

We will communicate future updates on the MHCP provider news and updates webpage. (pub. 4/1/20)

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) supplemental payment processing delayed

CCBHC supplemental payment processing has been delayed due to a software update to our Secure File Transfer Protocol. We are working to resolve it and CCBHC supplemental payments for fee-for-service claim dates Jan. 30 to Feb. 27, 2020, have been rescheduled for Apr. 14, 2020. No further action is required by providers. (pub. 3/30/20)

Webpage devoted to waivers and modifications to Minnesota Health Care Programs requirements during COVID-19 pandemic

Executive orders signed by Gov. Tim Walz grant the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) temporary authority to waive or modify administrative and regulatory requirements so that DHS and its partners can continue to provide essential programs and services to Minnesotans safely and without excessive delay during the COVID-19 pandemic.

See the [Waivers and modifications](#) webpage for information about waivers and modifications in effect, including those pending federal approval and changes made by the DHS commissioner under existing authority. (pub. 3/27/2020)

Health Behavior Assessment and Intervention claim denials to be reprocessed

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) recently discovered that some mental health provider types were inadvertently left off of the new Health Behavior Assessment and Intervention procedure codes that became effective Jan. 1, 2020. This caused claims to incorrectly deny. The system was corrected Mar. 12, 2020.

The provider types affected were licensed independent clinical social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed professional clinic counselors and licensed psychologists.

The procedure codes affected were 96156, 96158, 96159, 96164, 96165, 96167, 96168, 961470 and 96171.

We will reprocess all claims with dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2020, submitted before the system correction date of Mar. 12, 2020. Providers do not need to resubmit claims. These claims will appear on the Mar. 31, 2020, remittance advice. (pub. 3/26/20)

Diabetic testing supply program change

Therapeutic continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) systems that have only been a covered service when provided and billed by durable medical equipment (DME) providers using codes K0553 and K0554 will be included in the pharmacy point-of-sale preferred diabetic testing supply program beginning Apr. 1, 2020. Preferred therapeutic CGM systems will still be covered and may be billed by enrolled pharmacy providers using National Drug Codes. Non-preferred CGM systems will still require prior authorization and be subject to the non-preferred diabetic testing supply criteria. (pub. 3/26/20)

DHS submitted an 1135 waiver to CMS for flexibility to respond to COVID-19

The State has submitted [a waiver](#) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to begin the process of requesting a broad range of temporary flexibility the Department of Human Services can use if necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 1135 waiver and subsequent requests for more specific authorizations will help Minnesota deal with changing health, safety, workforce and infrastructure needs created by the public health emergency.

The submission of the 1135 waiver begins the process to gain necessary federal approvals to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. More waivers and amendments will be coming. DHS will keep you updated on the status of these federal approvals. (pub 3/25/20)

COVID-19 short-term emergency funding grants

The Minnesota Legislature approved \$200 million for health care grants to support costs related to planning for, preparing for or responding to an outbreak of COVID-19. \$50 million of this funding is available for short-term emergency funding grants to provide cash flow relief to health care organizations to cover their highest priority needs over the next two to eight weeks.

This process is fast-moving. You can find the short-term emergency funding grant application form on the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) [COVID-19 Response Funding webpage](#).

Applications are due by **midnight**, Wednesday Mar. 25.
Grant applications will be reviewed beginning Thursday, Mar. 26.

If you have questions about the grant application process, email MDH at COVIDgrantapplication.MDH@state.mn.us.

If you have questions about the COVID-19 Response Funding, email MDH at COVIDgrantinfo.MDH@state.mn.us. (pub. 3/24/20)

Electronic or digital signatures not currently accepted

We have received a number of questions from providers about electronic signatures for provider enrollment documents. Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) does not accept electronic or digital signatures on provider enrollment related documentation at this time. An electronic signature, or e-signature, refers to data in electronic form (for example, an electronic symbol). A digital signature is generated using DocuSign or other software. Neither electronic nor digital signatures are permitted.

You are permitted to print the required MHCP document, sign it and scan or take a picture of the document to send back to your employers or credentialing staff for submission to Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Provider Eligibility and Compliance (PEC). PEC is required to ensure authenticity and to be sure that a signer can't deny that a signature belongs to that person.

DHS may be reviewing this more closely at a later date to determine if electronic or digital signatures can be accepted, but in the meantime, please note that timely filing guidelines allow providers to bill up to one year from original date of service. Please refer to the [Enrollment with Minnesota Health Care Programs](#) webpage and ensure individual providers are qualified to provide services. We encourage providers to continue to provide necessary services. Please complete

MHCP provider enrollment documents and get required signatures and submit them to us as quickly as possible. It is important that the provider maintain a record of services they provide, including the date. (pub. 3/24/20, rev. 3/25/20)

Governor, Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) suspend certain licensing regulations

Gov. Tim Walz issued [Executive Order 20-12](#) Mar. 20, 2020, and DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead has suspended or modified certain licensing requirements and activities until May 1, 2020, to allow greater flexibility to comply with recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These modifications ensure the best interests of your clients and communities are met.

Read the [COVID-19 update regarding Minnesota Department of Human Services \(DHS\) licensing](#) message to find out more about DHS suspending or modifying most licensing enforcement activity. (pub 3/24/20)

Telehealth services during COVID-19 pandemic

We've had many questions regarding offering telemedicine while we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working to get clarification around the expanded use of telemedicine while complying with state and federal laws. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services broadened access to telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries, but we do not yet have any detailed information about Medicaid (Medical Assistance) services.

As you know, changes have evolved quickly. We will provide new information as soon as we get it. Watch the Provider news and updates and the [DHS COVID-19](#) webpages for information. (pub. 3/19/20)

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) to follow Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) codes and billing

CMS has developed an additional code for coronavirus lab tests effective Apr. 1, 2020. See the [CMS Develops Additional Code for Coronavirus Lab Tests](#) CMS newsroom webpage for code information. Beginning Apr. 1, 2020, providers may submit claims for tests performed on or after Feb. 4, 2020.

The American Medical Association (AMA) also approved a unique CPT code effective Mar. 13, 2020. See the AMA's [New CPT Code Announced to Report Novel Coronavirus Test](#) press release. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued coding guidelines for COVID-19. See the CDC's [ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines - Supplement \(PDF\)](#) for more information.

We follow CMS and CDC guidelines and we are working on updating our system to be ready for claims submitted beginning Apr. 1, 2020. Continue to monitor this webpage for updates.

Additional COVID-19 resources

- [Minnesota Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [CMS Newsroom](#)

(pub.3/18/20)

Follow universal precautions when performing job functions

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) encourages Personal Care Assistance (PCA) provider agencies and people using PCA services to remind workers about the importance of following universal precautions to keep illnesses from spreading. It is best practice to follow these instructions not only during the COVID-19 pandemic, but for all work situations. Watch the [universal precautions](#) training module we prepared to support agencies in the effort to keep people healthy. (pub. 3/18/20)

Free customized support for Home and community-based services (HCBS) providers

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has contracted with STAR Services to provide free customized support to HCBS providers. The customized support will be given to the providers selected and will focus on HCBS settings topic areas. For more information and to apply, see the [DHS launches free customized support for HCBS providers](#) AASD and DSD eList announcement. (pub. 3/10/20)

Off-campus provider-based hospital department claims with G0463 and modifier PO that apply a site-neutral reduction will be reprocessed

Calendar year (CY) 2019 claims with procedure code G0463 modified with PO (Services, procedures and/or surgeries provided at off-campus provider-based outpatient departments) that applied a site-neutral reduction will be reprocessed to allow 100 percent of the Ambulatory Payment Classification (APC) allowable. The CY 2019 reprocessed claims will be reported on your Mar. 17, 2020, remittance advice. See the [CMS-1717-FC Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

Minnesota Health Care Programs has identified the site-neutral reduction is not being applied for dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2020. We are working to correct this issue. We will reprocess the CY 2020 claims to apply a site-neutral reduction of 40 percent of the APC allowable after the issue is corrected. We will announce remittance advice dates after they are determined. Refer to [CMS MLN Matters MM11605](#) for more information. (pub. 3/10/20)

Encourage your staff and clients to participate in the 2020 census

Minnesota communities receive over \$15 billion from the federal government every year based on the census count. We are asking providers to encourage their staff and clients to participate in the 2020 census. Every home should receive an invitation to complete the census by Census Day, Apr. 1, 2020.

Here are links to resources you may find helpful.

- [We Count Minnesota \(PDF\)](#) outlines federal funding and census employment opportunities.
- [Census 101: What You Need to Know \(PDF\)](#) provides general information about the 2020 census.
- [How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond \(PDF\)](#) explains how households will be contacted and how they can respond.

For more information on the 2020 census, visit the [Counting Every Minnesotan – Census Day is April 1, 2020](#) website. (pub. 3/4/20)

4 procedure codes to be cost avoided beginning Mar. 20, 2020

Four procedure codes will be cost avoided for dates of service beginning on or after Mar. 20, 2020.

The cost-avoided procedure codes are:

- H0045
- S5130
- S5150
- S5151

There has been a correction in regards to procedure code T2003 that was previously identified to be cost avoided. This change will no longer take effect for this procedure code and it was removed from the list.

Providers who bill using these procedure codes need to follow Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) billing policies and report third-party liability (TPL) insurance as applicable. If the member has TPL and it is not reported on their claim, the claim will deny.

For information about cost avoidance and billing Medicare and TPL, see the [Medicare and Other Insurance](#) section of the MHCP provider manual. (pub. 2/19/20, rev. 3/27/20)

Training

Telehealth learning sessions available for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) providers

We have compiled a list of non-Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) learning sessions on using telecommunications technology as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and evolving concerns with service providers in the field of mental health and substance use disorder. For learning sessions information, schedule and topics, see the following:

Telehealth Learning Series for SUD Tx and Recovery Support Providers – The Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, the Center for Excellence on Protected Health Information (CoE-PHI), the National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers, and the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT) at the University of Nevada – Reno facilitate this training. Visit the [Telehealth Learning Series for SUD Tx and Recovery Support Providers](#) webpage for more information.

Dates: Mar. 31, 2020 – Apr. 29, 2020

TLC Tuesdays (5 sessions) – Mid-America Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) offers online training. See the [Telehealth Learning & Consultation Tuesdays](#) webpage.

Dates: Mar. 31, 2020 – Apr. 18, 2020. Complete recordings from each session will be available on the [Telehealth Learning & Consultation Tuesdays](#) webpage.

Telehealth Delivery Training for Mental Health and Substance Use Providers University of Minnesota Center for Practice Transformation offers this training. See the [Telehealth Delivery Training for Mental Health and Substance Use Providers](#) webpage.

Date: Apr. 3, 2020

The DHS [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) webpage provides counties, tribes, providers and members of the public with information specific to responding to COVID-19 as it relates to DHS programs. You can also sign up to receive email updates on that page. Check the webpage often as it will be updated as additional waivers are approved. (pub. 4/3/20)

PCA Steps for Success April training session has been changed

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has rescheduled the personal care assistant (PCA) [Steps for Success](#) training scheduled for April 22 -24, 2020, to July 22-24, 2020. DHS will deliver the training entirely online in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Providers who have already registered for the April Steps for Success training are not required to do anything at this time. DHS will send out an email with the link to the webinar three business days before class. Qualified Professionals who registered to attend the Steps for Success training in April will have the six-month grace period for enrollment extended until the July training session due to this change. Contact the [Minnesota Health Care Programs Provider Call Center](#) at 651-431-2700, option #4, with any questions. (pub. 4/3/20)

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) cancels in-person provider billing lab sessions through June

MHCP Provider Training has decided to cancel in-person billing labs through June. We want to help protect and keep Minnesotans safe from the spread of illness, and we want to help protect and keep our employees safe as well.

We will offer billing labs via webinar beginning in April and we may begin offering in-person sessions again in the future.

MHCP Provider Training will notify you if you have registered for any in-person billing labs in April, May or June and will give you the option to sign up for an April, May or June webinar session. The notice will include a link to the [Online Registration](#) webpage.

Check back with the Provider news and updates webpage to read billing lab scheduling announcements. (pub. 3/19/20, rev. 3/31/20)

Free billing lab training available

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) offers free training for MHCP enrolled providers. Go to the [MHCP enrolled provider training](#) webpage to see the list of available training.

We have added new training sessions for the following service providers:

- Physician and professional
- Substance Use Disorder
- Nursing facility

Minnesota Provider Screening and Enrollment (MPSE) free training available

Minnesota Health Care Programs is providing free training for our MPSE online portal. We will provide training in person and online through a webinar.

See the [MPSE portal training](#) webpage for registration, brief online tutorials to help prepare you for class and more information. (pub. 2/5/20)

Additional information

- [Provider news and updates archive](#)
- [MHCP provider policies and procedures](#)
- [Latest Manual Revisions](#)
- [Grants and requests for proposals](#)

If you have questions about this information, call the MHCP Provider Call Center at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411.

Sign up to receive provider news and other MHCP notices through our [free provider email lists](#).