



A Provider Manual for

Aetna Better Health of Ohio (MyCare Ohio Program)
2025-2026



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Chapter 1 – Introduction to Aetna Better Health of Ohio

Welcome

Welcome to Aetna Better Health of Ohio Inc., an Ohio corporation, d/b/a Aetna Better Health of Ohio, a MyCare Ohio plan. Our ability to provide excellent service to our enrollees is dependent on the quality of our provider network. By joining our network, you are helping us serve those Ohioans who need us most.

About Aetna Better Health

Aetna Medicaid has been a leader in Medicaid managed care since 1986 and currently serves just over 2 million individuals in 13 states. Aetna Medicaid affiliates currently own, administer or support Medicaid programs in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Louisiana, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia.

Aetna Medicaid has more than 25 years' experience in managing the care of the most medically vulnerable, using innovative approaches to achieve both successful health care results and maximum cost outcomes. Aetna Medicaid has particular expertise in serving high-need Medicaid enrollees, including those who are dual eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Experience and Innovation

We are dedicated to enhancing enrollee and provider satisfaction, using tools such as predictive modeling, care management, and state-of-the art technology to achieve cost savings and help enrollees attain the best possible health, through a variety of service models.

We work closely and cooperatively with physicians and hospitals to achieve durable improvements in service delivery. We are committed to building on the dramatic improvements in preventive care by facing the challenges of health literacy and personal barriers to healthy living.

Today Aetna owns and administers Medicaid managed health care plans for more than three million enrollees. In addition, Aetna provides care management services to hundreds of thousands of high-cost, high-need Medicaid enrollees. Aetna utilizes a variety of delivery systems, including fully capitated health plans, complex care management, and administrative service organizations.

About Aetna Better Health of Ohio, a MyCare Ohio plan

Aetna Better Health of Ohio is proud to have been chosen by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) to participate in the State of Ohio's MyCare Ohio Program, which will provide services to select individuals who are currently eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. This program will

provide individuals with a single healthcare plan that will encompass both Medicare and Medicaid benefits. This program will seek to:

- Arrange for care and services by specialists, hospitals, and providers of long-term services and supports (LTSS) and other non-Medicaid community-based services and supports
- Allocate increased resources to primary and preventive services in order to reduce utilization of more costly Medicare and Medicaid benefits, including institutional services
- Cover all administrative processes, including consumer engagement, which includes outreach and education functions, grievances, and appeals
- Utilize a payment structure that blends Medicare and Medicaid funding and mitigates the conflicting incentives that exist between Medicare and Medicaid

Although Aetna Better Health of Ohio is for enrollees eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare benefits, enrollees may elect to disenroll from Aetna Better Health of Ohio for their Medicare benefits but would remain enrolled for their Medicaid benefits. Aetna Better Health of Ohio will provide those Medicaid only enrollees with materials and ID cards that are specific to their Medicaid-only coverage.

About the MyCare Ohio plan

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010

(ACA), will enroll people who receive Medicare and full Medicaid benefits in managed fee-for-service or capitated managed care plans that seek to integrate benefits and align financial incentives between the two programs.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has chosen the capitated managed care model offered by CMS. Through the MyCare Ohio plan, managed by the ODM, Ohio will develop a fully integrated care system that comprehensively manages the full continuum of Medicare and Medicaid benefits for Medicare and Medicaid enrollees, including Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS). The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has chosen several Managed Care Organizations (health plans) to implement the MyCare Ohio plan which is designed to integrate Medicare-Medicaid benefits to selected regions across the state.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio will provide the following features to dual eligible enrollees enrolled in our MyCare Ohio plan:

- Seamless access to all physical health, behavioral health, and LTSS
- A choice of providers, with choices being facilitated by an independent, conflict-free Enrollment Broker
- Care planning and care coordination by a Trans-disciplinary Care Management Teams (TCMTs) that are centered around each enrollee
- Consumer direction for personal care services
- An independent, conflict-free, Participant Ombudsman to aid the participant in any questions or problems

- Continuity of care provisions to make certain seamless transition into the program
- Articulated network adequacy and access standards
- Fully coordinated care, including covered and non-covered services
- New Health Education and Wellness benefits
- Medicare Part D and Medicaid prescription drugs

Who Are the Duals?

Duals are defined as Ohio Individuals dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid who are elderly, disabled or both. These dually enrolled individuals usually have complex health needs including a broad range of care needs such as chronic health conditions, and functional or cognitive impairments (including mental health conditions or developmental disabilities). Many have both.

About this Provider Manual

The Provider Manual serves as a resource and outlines operations for Aetna Better Health of Ohio. Through the Provider Manual providers should be able to locate information on the majority of issues that may affect working with us. If you have a question, problem, or concern that the Provider Manual does not fully address, please call our Provider Services Department at **1-855-364-0974** for concerns. Medical, dental, and other procedures are clearly denoted within the manual.

Our Provider Services Department will update the Provider Manual at least annually and will distribute bulletins as needed to incorporate any revisions/changes. Please check our website at www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio for the most recent version of the Provider Manual and/or updates. The Aetna Better Health of Ohio Provider Manual is available at no charge in hard copy form, or on CD-ROM. Please contact Provider Services at **1-855-364-0974** to request a copy.

About Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH)

A medical home, also referred to as a “Patient-Centered Medical Home” is an approach to providing comprehensive, high-quality, individualized primary care services where the focus is to achieve optimal health outcomes. The medical home features a personal care clinician who partners with each enrollee, their family and other caregivers to coordinate aspects of the enrollee’s health care needs across care settings using evidence-based care strategies that are consistent with the enrollee’s values and stage in life.

Service Area’s

We will offer the MyCare Ohio plan in the following counties:

Northwest Region	Central Region	Southwest Region
Fulton	Delaware	Butler
Lucas	Franklin	Clermont
Ottawa	Madison	Clinton

Wood	Pickaway	Hamilton
	Union	Warren

Disclaimer

Providers are contractually obligated to adhere to and comply with all terms of the MyCare Ohio plan, and with your Aetna Better Health of Ohio Provider Agreement, including all requirements described in this Manual, in addition to all state and federal regulations governing a provider. While this Manual contains basic information about Aetna Better Health of Ohio, ODM, and CMS providers are required to fully understand and apply ODM and CMS requirements when administering covered services.

Please refer to the ODM and CMS websites for further information:

- medicaid.ohio.gov/ or jfs.ohio.gov/
- www.cms.hhs.gov/

Aetna Better Health of Ohio Policies and Procedures

Our comprehensive and robust policies and procedures are in place throughout our entire Health Plan to make certain all compliance and regulatory standards are met. Our policies and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and required updates are made as needed.

Model of Care

Our model of care offers an integrated care management approach, which offers enhanced assessment and management for our enrollees. The processes, oversight committees, provider collaboration, care management and coordination efforts applied to address enrollee needs result in a comprehensive and integrated plan of care for the enrollee.

The integrated model of care addresses the needs of enrollees who are often frail, elderly, or coping with disabilities, and have compromised daily living activities, chronic co-morbid medical/behavioral illnesses, challenging social or economic conditions, and/or end-of-life care issues.

Our program's combined provider and care management activities, coordinated through our Trans-disciplinary Care Management Team (TCMT) model, are intended to improve quality of life, health status, and appropriate treatment. Specific goals of the programs include:

- Improve access to affordable care
- Improve coordination of care through an identified point of contact
- Improve seamless transitions of care across healthcare settings and providers
- Promote appropriate utilization of services and cost-effective service delivery

Our efforts to promote cost-effective health service delivery include, but are not limited to the following:

- Review of network for adequacy and resolve unmet network needs
- Clinical reviews and proactive discharge planning activities

- An integrated care management program that includes comprehensive assessments, transition management, and provision of information directed towards prevention of complications and preventive care/services.

Many components of our integrated care management program influence enrollee health. These include:

- Comprehensive enrollee assessment, clinical review, proactive discharge planning, transition management, and education directed towards obtaining preventive care. These care management elements are intended to reduce avoidable hospitalization and nursing facility placements/stays.
- Identification of individualized care needs and authorization of required homecare services/assistive equipment when appropriate. This is intended to promote improved mobility and functional status and allow enrollees to reside in the least restrictive environment possible.
- Assessments and person-centered service planning and care plans that identify an enrollee's personal needs, which are used to direct education efforts that prevent medical complications and promote active involvement in personal healthmanagement.
- Care Manager referrals and predictive modeling software that identify enrollees at increased risk for nursing home placement, functional decline, hospitalization, emergency department visits, and death. This information is used to intervene with the most vulnerable enrollees in a timely fashion.

CMS Website Links

We administer our MyCare Ohio plan in accordance with the contractual obligations, requirements, and guidelines established by CMS. There are several manuals on the CMS website that may be referred to for additional information. Key CMS On-Line Manuals are listed below:

- Medicare Managed Care Manual – <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs-Items/CMS019326.html>
- Medicare Prescription Drug Manual - <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/prescription-drug-coverage/prescriptiondrugcovcontra/partdmanuals.html>
- Aetna Better Health of Ohio Model of Care Overview - <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/resources/tools>

Chapter 2 – Contact Information

Providers who have additional questions can refer to the following Aetna Better Health of Ohio, a MyCare Ohio plan phone numbers:

Important Contacts	Phone Number	Hours and Days of Operation (excluding State of Ohio holidays)
Aetna Better Health of Ohio	1-855-364-0974	8 a.m.-5 p.m. EST Monday-Friday
Aetna Better Health of Ohio Compliance Hotline (Reporting Fraud, Waste or Abuse)	1-866-253-0540	24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week through Voice Mail inbox
Aetna Better Health of Ohio Special Investigations Unit (SIU) (Reporting Fraud, Waste or Abuse)	1-800-338-6361	24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week

Aetna Better Health of Ohio Department	Facsimile
Member Services	1-855-259-2087
Provider Services & Provider Claim Disputes	1-855-826-3809
Care Management (includes behavioral health services)	1-855-734-9392
Medical Prior Authorization	1-855-734-9389
Pharmacy Prior Authorization	1-855-365-8108

Community Resource	Contact Information
State of Ohio Quit Line	1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) Website: https://ohio.quitlogix.org/en-US/

If you have questions, please call Provider Services at **1-855-364-0974**, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information visit www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio.

Contractors	Phone Number	Facsimile	Hours and Days of Operation
DentaQuest www.dentaquest.com	1-800-341-8478	N/A	
Interpreter Services Language interpretation services, including: sign language, special services for the hearing impaired, oral translation, and oral interpretation.	Please contact our Member Services Department at 1-855-364-0974 (for more information on how to schedule these services in advance of an appointment)	N/A	24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week
Vision Service Plan (VSP) www.vsp.com	1-800-877-7195 (TDD/TTY:711)	N/A	5 a.m.-8 p.m. PST Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-8 p.m. PST Saturday, Sunday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. PST
Access2Care (A2C) https://www.access2care.net/ Online Scheduling: https://www.access2care.net/services/managed-transportation/members-riders/schedule-transportation	Facility Line: 1-888-889-0094 For Routine Appointments: Allow 2 business days' notice (Facilities to call to make order reservations for patients)		Access2Care (A2C). Please note that this number is for requesting non-emergency transportation only. Emergency transportation services are covered for emergencies only, and enrollees who experience a medical emergency should call 911

Agency Contacts & Important Contacts	Phone Number	Facsimile	Hours and Days of Operation
<p>The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) Main Website: http://medicaid.ohio.gov/</p> <p>Provider Website: http://medicaid.ohio.gov/PROVIDERS/EnrollmentandSupport/ProviderAssistance.aspx</p> <p>50 West Town Street, Suite 400 Columbus, Ohio 43215</p>	<p>Provider Hotline: 1-800-686-1516</p> <p>Please note: Authorizations, Claims and any other Aetna Better of Ohio MyCare Ohio plan inquiry, please call our Provider Services line noted in the beginning of this chapter.</p>	N/A	8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST Monday-Friday
<p>ECHO Health Inc Customer Service Email Support: allpayer@echohealthinc.com</p> <p>Submit Electronic Claims: www.echohealthinc.com</p>	1-888-834-3511	N/A	24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week
Ohio York Relay	Dial 711	N/A	24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week

If you have questions, please call Provider Services at **1-855-364-0974**, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information visit www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio.

Reporting Suspected Neglect or Fraud			
Ohio Attorney General Complaints Hotline To report online: http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/Service-Divisions/Health-Care-Fraud/Report-Medicaid-Fraud The Ohio Auditor of State (AOS) Email at: fraudohio@ohioauditor.gov	1-800-282-0515 1-866-FRAUD-OH	N/A	8 a.m.-7 p.m. EST Monday-Friday (Excluding holidays and weekends. Voice mail service will be available whenever the Hotline is closed)
The National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-SAFE (7233)	N/A	24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week
The Federal Office of Inspector General in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Fraud)	1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477)	N/A	24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week

Important Addresses	
<p>Aetna Better Health of Ohio Participating Provider Disputes</p>	<p>Aetna Better Health of Ohio Attn: PAR Provider Disputes PO Box 982966 El Paso, TX 79998-2966</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-OR-</p> <p>Secure Provider Web Portal www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/portal</p> <p>Access our Par Provider Dispute Form at www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/forms</p>
<p>Aetna Better Health of Ohio Appeals (Non-participating providers)</p>	<p>Aetna Better Health of Ohio, a MyCare Ohio plan Attn: Grievance & Appeals PO Box 818070 Cleveland, OH 44181</p>
<p>Aetna Better Health of Ohio (Claims Submission & Resubmission)</p>	<p>Aetna Better Health of Ohio (MyCare Ohio Program) PO Box 982966 El Paso, TX 79998-2966</p>

Chapter 3 – Provider Services Department

Provider Services Department Overview

Our Provider Services Department serves as a liaison between the Aetna Better Health of Ohio Health Plan and the provider community. Our staff is comprised of Provider Liaisons and Provider Services Representatives. Our Provider Liaisons conduct onsite provider training, problem identification and resolution, provider office visits, and accessibility audits.

Our Provider Services Representatives are available by phone or email to provide telephonic or electronic support to all providers. Below are some of the areas where we provide assistance:

- Assistance with provider address change request
- Information about recent Health Plan and/or regulatory updates
- Assistance on how to locate forms
- Assistance with general provider questions
- Assistance with reviewing claims or remittance advices including questions surrounding claims and billing
- Information on provider denials
- Instructions for those providers needing to file a complaint and/or challenging or appealing the failure of the Health Plan to provide covered services (including state services)
- Information on enrollee grievance and appeals
- Information on translation/interpreter services
- Information about enrollee covered services
- Instruction on how to submit a prior authorization and/or cover determination (including exceptions)
- How to look up services that need a prior authorization (through Secure Web Portal)
- Information about provider orientations
- Information about coordination of services
- Information about provider responsibilities
- Assistance with checking enrollee eligibility
- Assistance with reviewing enrollee information on the Member Care Portal
- Instructions on how to locate a participating provider or specialist in our network
- Instructions on how to search the Preferred Drug List
- Assistance with processing provider terminations
- Assistance with changing practice information (moving from one practice to another etc.)
- Assistance with a Tax Identification Number (TIN) or National Provider Identification (NPI) number update in our system
- Assistance with obtaining a Secure Web Portal and or Member Care Login username and or password

Provider Toll-Free Help Line

The Provider Toll-Free Help Line, **1-855-364-0974**, will be staffed by Provider Services Representatives between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 PM., EST, Monday through Friday, excluding State of Ohio holidays.

Holidays are as follows:

- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

An automated system and secure voicemail will be available to providers between the hours of 5:00p.m. and 8:00 a.m., EST, Monday through Friday and 24 hours on weekends and holidays. Voicemails will be returned in a timely manner by our Provider Services staff.

Provider Orientation

Our Provider Services Department provides initial orientation for newly contracted providers within 180 days after joining our network. In follow-up to initial orientation, our Provider Services Department provides a variety of forums for ongoing provider training and education, such as routine office/site visits, webinars, group or individualized training sessions on select topics, (e.g., claims coding, enrollee benefits, website navigation), distribution of Periodic Provider Newsletters and bulletins containing updates and reminders, and online resources through our website at **www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio**.

Interested Providers

If you are interested in applying for participation in our network, please visit our website at <http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/join>, and complete the provider nomination form. If you would like to speak to a representative, please contact our Provider Services Department at **1-855-364-0974**.

Chapter 4 – Provider Responsibilities & Important Information

Provider Responsibilities Overview

This section outlines general provider responsibilities; however, additional responsibilities are included throughout this Manual. These responsibilities are the minimum requirements to comply with contract terms and all applicable laws. Providers are contractually obligated to adhere to and comply with all terms of the MyCare Ohio plan, their Provider Agreement, and all responsibilities outlined in this Manual. Aetna Better Health of Ohio may or may not specifically communicate such terms in forms other than the Provider Agreement and this Manual.

Providers must act lawfully in their scope of practice of treatment, management, and discussion of the medically necessary care and advising or advocating appropriate medical care with or on behalf of an enrollee

Providers must also act lawfully in their scope when providing information regarding the nature of treatment options risks of treatment, alternative treatments, and the availability of alternative therapies, consultation, or tests that may be self-administered including all relevant risk, benefits, and consequences of non-treatment.

Providers must also make certain to use the most current diagnosis and treatment protocols and standards established by the state and the medical community. Advice given to potential or enrolled enrollees should always be given in the best interest of the enrollee. Providers may not refuse treatment to qualified individuals with disabilities, including but not limited to individuals with the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

Providers that have been excluded from participation in any federally or state funded health care program are not eligible to become part of our network. Providers are **REQUIRED** to have an active Medicaid ID number with the State of Ohio to bill Aetna Better Health of Ohio. Any claims received for a period of time in which the provider does not have an active Medicaid ID number are subject to Denial, Rejection or Reversal.

Unique Identifier/National Provider Identifier

Providers who provide services to our enrollees must obtain identifiers. Each provider is required to have a unique identifier, and qualified providers must have a National Provider Identifier (NPI) on or after the compliance date established by the Centers of Medicare and

Medicaid (CMS). We understand that some provider types (i.e., assisted living, certified family homes, boarding homes, supervised independent living, and community residential facilities) may not have an NPI number. If a provider does not have an NPI number due to their provider type, we will associate the provider to a system default NPI for atypical providers (9999999995). For questions, please contact our Provider Services Department at **1-855-364-0974**”.

Appointment Availability Standards

Providers are required to schedule appointments for eligible enrollees in accordance with the minimum appointment availability standards and based on the acuity and severity of the presenting condition, in conjunction with the enrollee’s past and current medical history. Our Provider Services Department will routinely monitor compliance and seek Corrective Action Plans (CAP), such as panel or referral restrictions, from providers that do not meet accessibility standard. Providers are contractually required to meet the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) standards for timely access to care and services, taking into account the urgency of and the need for the services.

The table on the next page shows appointment wait time standards for Primary Care Providers (PCPs), Obstetrics and Gynecologist (OB/GYNs), high volume Participating Specialist Providers (PSPs), and Mental Health Clinics and Mental Health/Substance Abuse (MH/SA) providers.

Provider Type	Emergency Appointment Timeframe	Urgent Appointment Timeframe	Routine Appointment Timeframe	Appointment Wait Time (Office Setting)
Primary Care	Same day	Within 2 calendar days	Within 3 weeks	No More than 45 minutes
Specialist care	Immediate	Within 2 calendar days	Within 3 weeks	No More than 45 minutes

Provider Type	Emergency Appointment Timeframe	Urgent Appointment Timeframe	Routine Appointment Timeframe	Appointment Wait Time (Office Setting)
OB/GYN	Immediate	Within 2 calendar days	Initial Prenatal Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial First trimester: Within 3 weeks • Initial Second trimester: Within 7 calendar days • Initial Third trimester: Within 3 calendar days • High risk: Within 3 calendar days • Routine care: Within 3 weeks • Postpartum care: Within 6 weeks 	No More than 45 minutes

Chapter 4 – Provider Responsibilities & Important Information

Provider Type	Emergency Appointment Timeframe	Urgent Appointment Timeframe	Routine Appointment Timeframe	Appointment Wait Time (Office Setting)
Behavioral Health Periodic Screening Diagnosis & Treatment	Potentially suicidal individual: Immediate treatment Non-life-threatening emergency: within 6 hours	Within 48 hours	Initial Visit for Routine Care: Within 7 calendar days Follow-up Visit for Routine Care: Within 30 Days	No More than 45 minutes
Physical Therapy	Within 24 hours	Within 72 hours	Within 2 weeks	No More than 45 minutes
Occupational Therapy	Within 24 hours	Within 72 hours	Within 2 weeks	No More than 45 minutes
Sports Medicine	Within 24 hours	Within 72 hours	Within 2 weeks	No More than 45 minutes
Audiology			Within 2 weeks	No More than 45 minutes

If you have questions, please call Provider Services at **1-855-364-0974**, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information visit **www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio**.

Our waiting time standards require that enrollees, on average, should not wait at a PCP's office for more than sixty (60) minutes (1 hour) for an appointment for routine care. On rare occasions, if a PCP encounters an unanticipated urgent visit, or is treating an enrollee with a difficult medical need, the waiting time may be expanded. The above access and appointment standards are provider contractual requirements. Our Provider Services Department monitors compliance with appointment and waiting time standards and works with providers to assist them in meeting these standards.

Telephone Accessibility Standards

Providers have the responsibility to make arrangements for after-hours coverage in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, either by being available, or having on-call arrangements in place with other qualified participating Aetna Better Health of Ohio providers for the purpose of rendering medical advice, determining the need for emergency and other after-hours services including, authorizing care and verifying enrollee enrollment with us.

It is our policy that network providers cannot substitute an answering service as a replacement for establishing appropriate on-call coverage. On call coverage response for routine, urgent, and/or emergent health care issues are held to the same accessibility standards regardless if after hours coverage is managed by the PCP, current service provider, or the on-call provider.

All Providers must have a published after-hours telephone number and maintain a system that will provide access to primary care 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. In addition, we will encourage our providers to offer open access scheduling, expanded hours and alternative options for communication (e.g., scheduling appointments via the

web, communication via e-mail) between enrollees, their PCPs, and practice staff. We will routinely measure the PCP's compliance with these standards as follows:

- Our medical and provider management teams will continually evaluate emergency room data to determine if there is a pattern where a PCP fails to comply with after-hours access or if an enrollee may need care
- Management intervention
- Our compliance and provider management teams will evaluate enrollee, caregiver, and provider grievances regarding after hour access to care to determine if a PCP is failing to comply on a monthly basis
- Providers must comply with telephone protocols for all the following situations:
 - Answering the enrollee telephone inquiries on a timely basis
 - Prioritizing appointments
 - Scheduling a series of appointments and follow-up appointments as needed by an enrollee
 - Identifying and rescheduling broken and no-show appointments
 - Identifying special enrollee needs while scheduling an appointment (e.g., wheelchair and interpretive linguistic needs)
 - Triage for medical and dental conditions and special behavioral needs for noncompliant individuals who are mentally deficient
 - Scheduling continuous availability and accessibility of professional, allied, and supportive medical/dental staff to provide covered services within normal working hours. Protocols should be in place to provide coverage in the event of a provider's absence.

Provider must make certain that their hours of operation are convenient to, and do not discriminate against, MyCare Ohio enrollees. This includes offering hours of operation that are no less than those for non-enrollees, commercially insured or public fee-for-service individuals.

In the event that a PCP fails to meet telephone accessibility standards, a Provider Services Representative will contact the provider to inform them of the deficiency, educate the provider regarding the standards, and work to correct the barrier to care.

Covering Providers

Our Provider Services Department must be notified if a covering provider is not contracted or affiliated with Aetna Better Health of Ohio. This notification must occur in advance of providing authorized services. Failure to notify our Provider Services Department of the covering provider's affiliation may result in claim denials and the provider may be responsible for reimbursing the covering provider.

Verifying Enrollee Eligibility

All providers, regardless of contract status, must verify an enrollee's eligibility status prior to the delivery of non-emergent, covered services. An enrollee's assigned provider must also be verified prior to rendering primary care services. Providers are NOT reimbursed for services rendered to enrollees who lost eligibility or who were not assigned to the PCPs panel (unless, s/he is a physician covering for the provider).

Enrollee eligibility can be verified through one of the following ways:

- **Telephone Verification:** Call our Member Services Department to verify eligibility at 1-855-364-0974. To protect the enrollee's confidentiality, providers are asked for at least three pieces of identifying information such as the enrollee's identification number, date of birth and or address before any eligibility information can be released.
- **Secure Portal Verification:** Enrollee eligibility search & panel rosters are found on our Secure Website Portal. Contact our Provider Services Department for additional information about securing a confidential username and password to access the site. Note eligibility files are only updated once a month and are only available to PCPs and those providers acting as PCPs.

Additional enrollee eligibility requirements are noted in Chapter 7 of this Manual.

Secure Web Portal

The Secure Web Portal is a web-based platform that allows us to communicate enrollee healthcare information directly with providers. Providers can perform many functions within this web-based platform. The following information can be attained from the Secure Web Portal:

- Enrollee Eligibility Search – Verify current eligibility of one or more enrollee
- Panel Roster – View the list of enrollees currently assigned to the provider as the PCP
- Provider List – Search for a specific provider by name, specialty, or location
- Claims Status Search – Search for provider claims by enrollee, provider, claim number, or service dates. Only claims associated with the user's account provider ID will be displayed.
- Remittance Advice Search – Search for provider claim payment information by check number, provider, claim number, or check issue/service dates. Only remits associated with the user's account provider ID will be displayed.
- Provider Prior Authorization Look up Tool – Search for provider authorizations by enrollee, provider, authorization data, or submission/service dates. Only authorizations associated with the user's account provider ID will be displayed. The tool will also allow providers to:
 - Search Prior Authorization requirements by individual or multiple Current Procedural Terminology/ Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (CPT/HCPCS) codes simultaneously

- Review Prior Authorization requirement by specific procedures or service groups
- Receive immediate details as to whether the codes are valid, expired, a covered benefit, have prior
- authorization requirements, and any noted prior authorization exception information
- Export CPT/HCPCS code results and information to Excel
- Make certain staff works from the most up-to-date information on current prior authorization requirements
- Submit Authorizations – Submit an authorization request on-line. Three types of authorization types are available:
 - Medical Inpatient
 - Outpatient
 - Durable Medical Equipment – Rental
- Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) – Check the status of the enrollee’s compliance with any of the HEDIS measures. A “Yes” means the enrollee has measures that they are not compliant with; a “No” means that the enrollee has met the requirements.

For additional information regarding the Secure Web Portal, please access the Secure Web Portal Navigation Guide located on our website or call our Provider Services Department at 1-855-364-0974.

Member Care Web Portal

The Member Care Web Portal is another web-based platform offered by Aetna Better Health of Ohio that allows providers access to our web-based application, the CaseTrakker™ Dynamo system. This portal allows providers to view care management and relevant enrollee clinical data, and securely interact with the Trans-disciplinary Care Management Team (TCMT).

Providers can do the following via the Member Care Web Portal:

- Providers can view their own demographics, addresses, phone, and fax numbers for accuracy.
- Provider can update their own fax number and email address. For their Patients:
- View and print enrollee’s care plan* and provide feedback to Care Manager via secure messaging.
- View an enrollee’s profile which contains:
 - Enrollee’s contact information
 - Enrollee’s demographic information
 - Enrollee’s Clinical Summary
 - Enrollee’s Gaps in Care (individual enrollee)

- Enrollee’s Care Plan
- Enrollee’s Service Plans
- Enrollee’s Assessments responses*
- Enrollee’s Care Team: List of enrollees’ TCMT team and contact information (e.g., specialists, caregivers) *, including names/relationship
- Detailed enrollee clinical profile: Detailed enrollee information (claims- based data) for conditions, medications, and utilization data with the ability to drill-down to the claim level*
- High-risk indicator* (based on existing information, past utilization, and enrollee rank)
- Conditions and Medications reported through claims
- Enrollee reported conditions and medications* (including Over the Counter (OTC), herbals, and supplements)
 - View and provide updates and feedback on “HEDIS Gaps in Care” and “Care Consideration” alerts for their enrollee panel*
 - Secure messaging between provider and Care Manager
 - Provider can look up enrollees not on their panel (provider required to certify treatment purpose as justification for accessing records)

* Any enrollee can limit provider access to clinical data except for enrollees flagged for 42 C.F.R. (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 2 (substance abuse). Those enrollees must sign a disclosure form and list specific providers who can access their clinical data.

For additional information regarding the Member Care Web Portal, please access the Provider Web Portal Navigation Guide located on our website.

Enrollee Temporary Move Out-of-Service Area

The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) defines a temporary move as an absence from the service area (where the enrollee is enrolled in the MyCare Ohio plan) of six (6) months or less.

Enrollees are covered while temporarily out of the service area for emergent, urgent, post-stabilization, and out-of- area dialysis services. If an enrollee permanently moves out of our service area or is absent for more than six (6) months, the enrollee will be disenrolled from the MyCare Ohio plan.

Coverage of Renal Dialysis – Out of Area

We pay for renal dialysis services obtained by a MyCare Ohio plan enrollee from a contracted or non-contracted certified physician or health care professional while the enrollee is temporarily out of our service area (up to six (6) months).

Preventive or Screening Services

Providers are responsible for providing appropriate preventive care to enrollees. These preventive services include, but are not limited to:

- Age-appropriate immunizations (flu), disease risk assessment and age-appropriate physical examinations.
- Well woman visits (female enrollees may go to a network obstetrician/gynecologist for a well woman exam once a year without a referral).
- Age and risk appropriate health screenings. Please see the “Healthchek” section under Benefits.

Mental Health / Substance Abuse

For information about provider responsibilities surrounding MH/SA services, please see Chapter 10 of this Manual.

Educating Enrollees on their own Health Care

Aetna Better Health of Ohio does not prohibit providers from acting within the lawful scope of their practice and encourages them to advocate on behalf of an enrollee and to advise them on:

- The enrollee’s health status, medical care, or treatment options, including any alternative treatment that may be self-administered.
- Any information the enrollee needs in order to decide among all relevant treatment options.
- The risks, benefits, and consequences of treatment or non-treatment.
- The enrollee’s right to participate in decisions regarding his or her MH/SA health care, including the right to refuse treatment, and to express preferences about future treatment decisions.

Urgent Care Services

As the provider, you must serve the medical needs of our enrollees; you are required to adhere to the all appointment availability standards. In some cases, it may be necessary for you to refer enrollees to one of our network urgent care centers (after-hours in most cases). Please reference the “Find a Provider link” on our website and select an “Urgent Care Facility” in the specialty drop down list to view a list of participating urgent care centers located in our network.

Periodically, we will review unusual urgent care and emergency room utilization. Trends will be shared and may result in increased monitoring of appointment availability.

Primary Care Providers (PCPs)

The primary role and responsibilities of a PCP includes, but is not be limited to:

- Providing primary and preventive care and acting as the enrollee’s advocate

- Initiating, supervising, and coordinating referrals for specialty care and inpatient services, maintaining continuity of enrollee care
- Maintaining the enrollee's medical record

Primary Care Providers (PCPs) are responsible for rendering, or ensuring the provision of, covered preventive and primary care services for our enrollees. These services will include, at a minimum, the treatment of routine illnesses, flu/immunizations, health screening services, and maternity services, if applicable.

Primary Care Providers (PCPs) in their care coordination role serve as the referral agent for specialty and referral treatments and services provided to enrollees assigned to them. Primary Care Providers (PCP) should attempt to coordinate quality care that is efficient and cost effective. Coordination responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Referring enrollees to MH/SA providers, providers or hospitals within our network, as appropriate, and if necessary, referring enrollees to out-of-network specialty providers;
- Coordinating with our Prior Authorization Department regarding prior authorization procedures for enrollees
- Conducting follow-up (including maintaining records of services provided) for referral services that are rendered to their assigned enrollees by other providers, specialty providers and/or hospitals
- Coordinating the medical care for the programs the enrollees are assigned to, including at a minimum:
 - Oversight of drug regimens to prevent negative interactive effects
 - Follow-up for all emergency services
 - Coordination of inpatient care
 - Coordination of services provided on a referral basis
 - Assurance that care rendered by specialty providers is appropriate and consistent with each enrollee's health care needs

After an enrollee has been discharged from an acute inpatient setting to a home setting, the PCP must follow up with the enrollee. During the meeting, the PCP must make certain that all services for the enrollee have been ordered, they address any new concerns and/or the enrollee needs, make appropriate referrals for specialty services, and resume any ongoing care for the enrollee.

Primary Care Providers (PCPs) are responsible for establishing and maintaining hospital admitting privileges that are sufficient to meet the needs of enrollees or entering into formal arrangements for management of inpatient hospital admissions of enrollees. This includes arranging for coverage during leave of absence periods with an in-network provider with admitting privileges.

Primary Care Providers (PCPs) may not close their panels immediately upon contracting with us. Our Provider Services Department manages each PCP's panel to automatically stop accepting new enrollees after the agreed limit. If the PCP site employs Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners/Physician Assistants, then the Provider site will be permitted to add an additional agreed upon number of enrollees to the panel. Please contact our Provider Services Department for additional information.

Specialty Providers

Specialty providers are responsible for providing services in accordance with the accepted community standards of care and practices. Specialists are required to coordinate with the PCP when enrollees need a referral to another specialist. The specialist is responsible for verifying enrollee eligibility prior to providing services.

When a specialist refers the enrollee to a different specialist or provider, then the original specialist must share these records, upon request, with the appropriate provider or specialist. The sharing of the documentation should occur with no cost to the enrollee, other specialists or other providers.

Primary Care Providers (PCPs) should only refer enrollees to Aetna Better Health of Ohio network specialists. If the enrollee requires specialized care from a provider outside of our network, a prior authorization is required.

Hospitals and nursing homes are prohibited from imposing a requirement for a three (3) day hospital stays prior to covering a nursing home stay. If you have question regarding this requirement, please contact the enrollee's Care Manager.

It is important to remember that only covered services will be reimbursed by Aetna Better Health of Ohio for approved facilities and/or contracted providers. However, enrollees are permitted to see the following provider types even though they may not be contracted with Aetna Better Health of Ohio:

- Emergency Services
- Urgent Care (for urgent needed services)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers/Rural Health Clinics (FQHC/RHC)
- Qualified Family Planning Provider (QFPP)
- An Aetna Better Health of Ohio approved out-of-network provider
- Certified Nurse Midwives (CNM) and Certified Nurse Practitioners (CNP)

Enrollees are assured access to these provider types. If a contracting provider is available, enrollees must see the contracting provider. If an enrollee cannot locate a contracted provider, they can contact Aetna Better Health of Ohio for assistance. Please contact the Provider Services Department for further clarification on how enrollees access these services at 1-855-364-0974.

For a list of current behavior health contracted providers, please search our web directory located on our website at <http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/Ohio/>.

Specialty Providers Acting as PCPs

In limited situations, an enrollee may select a physician specialist to serve as their PCP. In these instances, the specialist must be able to demonstrate the ability to provide comprehensive primary care. A specialist may be requested to serve as a PCP under the following conditions:

- When the enrollee has a complex, chronic health condition that requires a specialist's care over a prolonged period of time and exceeds the capacity of the non-specialist PCP (i.e., enrollees with complex neurological disabilities, chronic pulmonary disorders, HIV/AIDS, complex hematology/oncology conditions, cystic fibrosis etc.)
- When an enrollee's health condition is life threatening or sodegenerative and/or disabling in nature to warrant a specialist serve in the PCP role.
- In unique situations where terminating the clinician-enrollee relationship would leave the enrollee without access to proper care or services or would end a therapeutic relationship that has been developed over time leaving the enrollee vulnerable or at risk for not receiving proper care or services.

Our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) will coordinate efforts to review the request for a specialist to serve as a PCP. The CMO will have the authority to make the final decision to grant PCP status taking into consideration the conditions noted above.

Specialty providers acting as PCPs must comply with the appointment, telephone, and after-hours standards noted in the beginning of Chapter 3. This includes arranging for coverage 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

Nursing Home Providers

Nursing homes provide services to enrollees that need consistent care, but do not need to be hospitalized or require daily care from a physician. Many nursing homes provide additional services, or other levels of care, to meet the special needs of enrollees.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) providers should work closely with our Care Managers. Care Managers will complete face-to-face assessments with our enrollees in their residence as frequent as state requirements, or as the enrollee's condition warrants. Based on the assessment, Care Managers will then identify the appropriate services that meet the enrollee's functional needs, including determining which network provider may be available to provide services to the enrollee in a timely manner. Upon completion, our Care Managers will then create authorizations for the

selected provider and communicate these authorizations accordingly. Care Managers will also follow up with the enrollee the day after services are to start, confirming that the selected provider has started the services as authorized.

There may be times when an interruption of service may occur, due to an unplanned hospital admission or short-term nursing home stay, for the enrollee. While services may have been authorized for caregivers and agencies, providers should not bill for any days that fall between the admission date and the discharge date, or any day during which services were not provided. This could be considered fraudulent billing. Example:

Enrollee is authorized to receive forty (40) hours Personal Assistant service, per week, over a five (5) day period. The enrollee is receiving eight (8) hours of care a day.

The enrollee is admitted into the hospital on January 1, 2018 and is discharged from the hospital on January 3, 2018. There should be no billable hours for January 2, 2018, as no services were provided on that date since the enrollee was hospital confined for a full twenty-four (24) hours.

Caregivers would not be able, or allowed, to claim time with the enrollee in the example above, since no services could be performed on January 2, 2018. This is also true for any in-home service.

Personal Assistants and Community Agencies are responsible for following this process: Claims may not be submitted when the enrollee has been admitted to a hospital or nursing home for the full twenty-four (24) hours. The day of admission or discharge is allowed, but the days in between are not. Personal Assistants and Community Agencies submitting claims for the days in between will be required to pay back any monies paid by Aetna Better Health of Ohio. Periodic audits will be conducted to verify compliance. For additional HCBS waiver information, please review the HCBS Waiver Reference Manual located on the website within the “Kit Content” PDF.

Supportive Living Facilities

Supportive living facilities are obligated to collect room and board fees from enrollees (includes alternative residential settings). Room and board includes but is not limited to:

- Debt service costs
- Maintenance costs
- Utilities costs
- Food costs (includes three meals a day or any other full nutritional regimen)
- Taxes
- Boarding costs (includes room, hotel and shelter-type of expenses)
- Federal regulations prohibit Medicaid from paying room and board costs. Please be aware that:

- Payments issued are always the contracted amount minus the enrollee's room and board
- The room and board agreement identifies the level of payment for the setting, placement date, and room and board amount the enrollee must pay
- The room and board agreement is initially completed by the Aetna Better Health of Ohio Care Manager at the time of placement
- The Room and Board agreement form is completed at least once a year, or more often if there are changes in income
- The room and board amount may periodically change based on an enrollee's income

Note – Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) providers may not submit claims when the enrollee has been admitted to a hospital or nursing home. The day of admission or discharge is allowed, but the days in between are not. Providers submitting claims in the days in between may be subject to a Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

Second Opinions

An enrollee may request a second opinion from a provider within our network. Providers should refer the enrollee to another network provider within an applicable specialty for the second opinion.

Provider Requested Enrollee Transfer

When persistent problems prevent an effective provider-patient relationship, a participating provider may ask an enrollee to leave their practice. Such requests cannot be based solely on the enrollee filing a grievance, an appeal, a request for a Fair Hearing or any other action by the patient related to coverage, high utilization of resources by the patient or any reason that is not permissible under applicable law.

The following steps must be taken when requesting a specific provider-patient relationship to be terminated:

1. The provider must send a letter informing the enrollee of the termination and the reason(s) for the termination. The letter must be provided to the enrollee at least thirty (30) days prior to the removal. A copy of this letter must also be sent to:

Aetna Better Health of Ohio
Provider Services Manager
7400 West Campus Road
Mail Code: F494
New Albany, OH 43054

2. The provider must support continuity of care for the enrollee by giving enough notice and opportunity to make other arrangements for care.
3. Upon request, the provider will provide resources or recommendations to the enrollee to help locate another participating provider and offer to transfer records to the new provider upon receipt of a signed patient authorization.

In the case of a PCP, Aetna Better Health of Ohio will work with the enrollee to inform him/her on how to select another Primary Care Provider (PCP).

Medical Records Review

Our standards for medical records have been adopted from the NCQA and Medicaid Managed Care Quality Assurance Reform Initiative (QARI). These are the minimum acceptable standards within our provider network. Below is a list of our medical record review criteria. Consistent organization and documentation in patient medical records is required as a component of our Quality Management initiatives to maintain continuity and effective, quality patient care.

Provider records must be maintained in a legible, current, organized, and detailed manner that permits effective patient care and quality review. Providers must make records pertaining to Aetna Better Health of Ohio enrollees, immediately and completely available for review and copying by the ODM and/or federal officials at the provider's place of business, or forward copies of records to the ODM upon written request without charge.

Medical records must reflect the different aspects of patient care, including ancillary services. The enrollee's medical record must be legible, organized in a consistent manner and must remain confidential and accessible to authorized persons only. All medical records, where applicable and required by regulatory agencies, must be made available electronically. All providers must adhere to national medical record documentation standards. Below are the minimum medical record documentation and coordination requirements:

- Enrollee identification information on each page of the medical record (i.e., name, Medicaid or the ODM Identification Number)
- Documentation of identifying demographics including the enrollee's name, address, telephone number, employer, Medicaid and or the ODM Identification Number, gender, age, date of birth, marital status, next of kin, and, if applicable, guardian or authorized representative
- Complying with all applicable laws and regulations pertaining to the confidentiality of enrollee medical records, including, but not limited to, obtaining any required written enrollee consents to disclose confidential medical records for complaint and appeal reviews

- Initial history for the enrollee that includes family medical history, social history, operations, illnesses, accidents, and preventive laboratory screenings
- Past medical history for all enrollees that includes disabilities and any previous illnesses or injuries, smoking, alcohol/substance abuse, allergies, and adverse reactions to medications, hospitalizations, surgeries, and emergent/urgent care received
- Immunization records (recommended for adult enrollees if available)
- Dental history if available, and current dental needs and/or services
- Current problem list (The record should contain a working diagnosis, as well as a final diagnosis and the elements of a history and physical examination, upon which the current diagnosis is based)
- significant illness, medical conditions, and health maintenance concerns are identified in the medical record)
- Patient visit data - Documentation of individual encounters must provide adequate evidence of, at a minimum:
 - History and physical examination - Appropriate subjective and objective information is obtained for the presenting complaints.
 - Plan of treatment
 - Diagnostic tests
 - Therapies and other prescribed regimens
 - Follow-up - Encounter forms or notes have a notation, when indicated, concerning follow-up care, call, or visit. Specific time to return is noted in weeks, months, or as needed. Unresolved problems from previous visits are addressed in subsequent visits
 - Referrals, recommendations for specialty, MH/SA, dental and vision care, and results thereof
 - Other aspects of patient care, including ancillary services
- Fiscal records - Providers will retain fiscal records relating to services they have rendered to enrollees, regardless of whether the records have been produced manually or by computer
- Current medications (Therapies, medications and other prescribed regimens - Drugs prescribed as part of the treatment, including quantities and dosages, should be entered into the record. If a prescription is telephoned to a pharmacist, the prescriber's record should have a notation to the effect)
- Documentation, initialed by the enrollee's PCP, to signify review of:
 - Diagnostic information including:
 - Laboratory tests and screenings
 - Radiology reports
 - Physical examination notes
 - Other pertinent data
- Reports from referrals, consultations and specialists
- Emergency/urgent care reports

- Hospital discharge summaries (Discharge summaries are included as part of the medical record for (1) hospital admissions that occur while the patient is enrolled in Aetna Better Health of Ohio and (2) prior admissions as necessary)
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse (MH/SA) health history and MH/SA health referrals and services provided, if applicable, including notification of MH/SA providers, if known, when an enrollee's health status changes or new medications are prescribed
- Documentation as to whether or not an adult enrollee has completed advance directives and location of the document (advance directives include Living Will, and Mental Health Treatment Declaration Preferences and are written instructions relating to the provision of health care when the individual is incapacitated)
- Documentation related to requests for release of information and subsequent releases
- Documentation that reflects that diagnostic, treatment and disposition information related to a specific enrollee was transmitted to the PCP and other providers, including MH/SA providers, as appropriate to promote continuity of care and quality management of the enrollee's health care
- Entries - Entries will be signed and dated by the responsible licensed provider. The responsible licensed provider should countersign care rendered by ancillary staff. Alterations of the record will be signed and dated
- Provider identification - Entries are identified as to author
- Legibility – Again, the record must be legible to someone other than the writer. A second reviewer should evaluate any record judged illegible by one physician reviewer

Medical Record Audits

Aetna Better Health of Ohio or CMS may conduct routine medical record audits to assess compliance with established standards. Medical records may be requested when we are responding to an inquiry on behalf of an enrollee or provider, administrative responsibilities or quality of care issues. Providers must respond to these requests promptly. Medical records must be made available to the ODM and CMS for quality review upon request and free of charge.

Access to Facilities and Records

Medicare laws, rules, and regulations require that network providers retain and make available all records pertaining to any aspect of services furnished to an enrollee or their Provider Agreement with Aetna Better Health of Ohio for inspection, evaluation, and audit for the longer of:

- A period of ten (10) years from the end of the Provider Agreement with Aetna Better Health of Ohio
- The date the ODM or their designees complete an audit
- The period required under applicable laws, rules, and regulations

Documenting Enrollee Appointments

When scheduling an appointment with an enrollee over the telephone or in person (i.e. when an enrollee appears at your office without an appointment), providers must verify eligibility and document the enrollee's information in the enrollee's medical record. You may access our website to electronically verify enrollee eligibility or call our Member Services Department at **1-855-364-0974**.

Missed or Cancelled Appointments

Providers must:

- Document in the enrollee's medical record, and follow-up on missed or canceled appointments.
- Conducting affirmative outreach to an enrollee who misses an appointment by performing the minimum reasonable efforts to contact the enrollee.
- Notify our Member Services Department when an enrollee continually misses appointments.

Documenting Referrals

Providers are responsible for initiating, coordinating, and documenting referrals to specialists, including dentists and MH/SA providers within our network. Providers must follow the respective practices for emergency room care, second opinion, and noncompliant enrollees.

Confidentiality and Accuracy of Enrollee Records

Providers must safeguard/secure the privacy and confidentiality of and make certain the accuracy of any information that identifies an Aetna Better Health of Ohio enrollee. Original medical records must be released only in accordance with federal or state laws, court orders, or subpoenas.

Specifically, our network providers must:

- Maintain accurate medical records and other health information.
- Help make certain timely access by enrollees to their medical records and other health information.
- Abide by all state and federal laws and our contracts with CMS and ODM regarding confidentiality and disclosure of mental health records, medical records, other health information, and enrollee information.

Provider must follow both required and voluntary provision of medical records must be consistent with HIPAA privacy statute and regulations.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1997 (HIPAA)

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1997 (HIPAA) has many provisions affecting the health care industry, including transaction code sets, privacy

and security provisions. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) impacts what is referred to as covered entities; specifically, providers, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and health care clearinghouses that transmit health care information electronically. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) has established national standards addressing the security and privacy of health information, as well as standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers. All providers are required to adhere to HIPAA regulations. For more information about these standards, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>. In accordance with HIPAA guidelines, providers may not interview enrollees about medical or financial issues within hearing range of other patients.

Providers are contractually required to safeguard and maintain the confidentiality of data that addresses medical records, confidential provider, and enrollee information, whether oral or written in any form or medium. To help safeguard patient information, we recommend the following:

- Train your staff on HIPAA
- Consider the patient sign-in sheet
- Keep patient records, papers and computer monitors out of view
- Have electric shredder or locked shred bins available

The following enrollee information is considered confidential:

- "Individually identifiable health information" held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associate, in any form or media, whether electronic, paper, or oral. The Privacy Rule calls this information Protected Health Information (PHI). The Privacy Rule, which is a federal regulation, excludes from PHI employment records that a covered entity maintains in its capacity as an employer and education and certain other records subject to, or defined in, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g.
- "Individually identifiable health information" is information, including demographic data, that relates to:
 - The individual's past, present or future physical or mental health, or condition.
 - The provision of health care to the individual.
 - The past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to the individual and information that identifies the individual or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe it can be used to identify the individual.
 - Individually identifiable health information includes many common identifiers (e.g., name, address, birth date, Social Security Number).
 - Providers' offices and other sites must have mechanisms in place that guard against unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure of confidential information to anyone outside of Aetna Better Health of Ohio.
 - Release of data to third parties requires advance written approval from the ODM, except for releases of information for the purpose of individual care

and coordination among providers, releases authorized by enrollees or releases required by court order, subpoena, or law.

Additional privacy requirements are located throughout this Manual. Please review the “Medical Records” section for additional details surrounding safeguarding patient medical records.

Breach of PHI¹

If a provider and or the provider’s staff discovers a breach (i.e., when the incident that involves the impermissible use or disclosure of PHI becomes first known), a notification will need to be sent to affected patients without unreasonable delay and in no case later than sixty (60) calendar days after the date of the breach (unless requested by law enforcement). The sixty (60) daytime period should be seen as an outer limit. So, if the risk analysis and the necessary information to provide notification is completed earlier, waiting until the day sixty (60) would be seen as an unreasonable delay. However, if during the sixty (60) day period a prompt risk analysis and investigation is conducted and it is concluded that no breach occurred, then no notification is necessary.

The breach notification should be sent to patients in written form by first-class mail at the last known address. If a patient agrees to receive a notification via e-mail and this agreement has not been rescinded, then the written notification can be sent electronically. In the case of minors or patients who lack legal capacity due to a mental or physical condition, the parent or personal representative should be notified. If the provider knows that a patient is deceased, the notification should be sent to the patient's next of kin or personal representative (i.e., a person who has the authority to act on behalf of the decedent or the decedent's estate), if the address is known. In urgent situations where there is a possibility for imminent misuse of the unsecured PHI, additional notice by telephone or other means may be made. However, direct written notice must still be provided.

Substitute notice must be provided if contact information is not available for some or all of the affected patients or if some notifications that were sent are returned as undeliverable. The form of the substitute notice is based on the number of patients for whom contact information was unavailable or out-of-date. If the number of patients is fewer than ten (10), the provider should choose a form that can be reasonably calculated to reach the individual who should be notified. Possible forms may be an e-mail message, a phone call (keeping in mind that sensitive information should not be left on voicemail or in messages to other household members), or possibly a web

¹U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “Breach Notification Rule “available here: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/breach-notification/index.html>

posting if no other contact information is available and this is reasonably calculated to reach the patient. If the number of patient is ten (10) or more, the provider should place a conspicuous notice that includes a toll-free number: (1) on its homepage or a hyperlink that conveys the nature and important of the information to the actual notice, or (2) in major print or broadcast media in geographic areas where the affected individuals of the breach likely live. If the provider can update the contact information and provide written notice to one or more patients so as to bring the total number of patients for whom contact information is unavailable or out-of-date to less than ten, then the conspicuous notice requirement can be avoided.

For additional details surrounding media coverage and notification to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, please visit the following site at: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/breach-notification/index.html>

For additional training or Q&A, please visit the following site at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/admnsimp/final/pvcguide1.htm>

Providers must notify Aetna Better Health of Ohio if a breach occurs regardless of the number of patients impacted.

Enrollee Privacy Rights

Our privacy policy states that enrollees are afforded the privacy rights permitted under HIPAA and other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and applicable contractual requirements. Our privacy policy conforms with 45 C.F.R. relevant sections of the HIPAA that provide enrollee privacy rights and place restrictions on uses and disclosures of protected health information (§164.520, 522, 524, 526, and 528) and with other applicable federal and state privacy laws.

Our policy also assists our staff and providers in meeting the privacy requirements of HIPAA when enrollees or authorized representatives exercise privacy rights through privacy request, including:

- Making information available to enrollees or their representatives about Aetna Better Health of Ohio's practices regarding their PHI
- Maintaining a process for enrollees to request access to, changes to, or restrictions on disclosure of their PHI
- Providing consistent review, disposition, and response to privacy requests within required time standards
- Documenting requests and actions taken

Enrollee Privacy Requests

Enrollees may make the following requests related to their PHI ("privacy requests") in accordance with federal, state and local law:

- Make a privacy complaint
- Receive a copy of all or part of the designated record set
- Amend records containing PHI
- Receive an accounting of health plan disclosures of PHI
- Restrict the use and disclosure of PHI
- Receive confidential communications
- Receive a Notice of Privacy Practices

A privacy request must be submitted by the enrollee or enrollee's authorized representative. An enrollee's representative must provide documentation or written confirmation that he or she is authorized to make the request on behalf of the enrollee or the deceased enrollee's estate. Except for requests for a health plan Notice of Privacy Practices, requests from enrollees or an enrollee's representative must be submitted to Aetna Better Health of Ohio in writing.

Advance Directives

Providers are required to comply with state and federal law regarding advance directives for adult enrollees. The advance directive must be prominently displayed in the adult enrollee's medical record. Requirements include:

- Providing written information to adult enrollees regarding each individual's rights under state law to make decisions regarding medical care and any provider written policies concerning advance directives (including any conscientious objections).
- Documenting in the enrollee's medical record whether or not the adult enrollee has been provided the information and whether an advance directive has been executed.
- Not discriminating against an enrollee because of his or her decision to execute or not execute an advance directive and not making it a condition for the provision of care.

For additional information about Advance Directives, please see Chapter 13 in this Manual.

Provider Marketing

Providers must adhere to all applicable Medicare and Medicaid laws, rules, and regulations relating to marketing guidelines. Per Medicare regulations, "marketing materials" include, but are not limited to, promoting the MyCare Ohio plan, informing enrollees that they may enroll or remain enrolled in the MyCare Ohio plan, explaining the benefits of enrollment in the MyCare Ohio plan or rules that apply to enrollees, or explaining how services are covered under the MyCare Ohio plan. Regulations prevent us from conducting sales activities in healthcare settings.

Providers may discuss, in response to an individual patient’s inquiry, the various benefits of the MyCare Ohio plan. Providers are encouraged to display approved plan enrollee materials for all plans with which they participate. Providers can also refer their patients to 1-800-MEDICARE, Enrollment Broker, or CMS’s website at www.medicare.gov for additional information.

Providers cannot accept MyCare Ohio plan enrollment forms. We follow the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute and CMS marketing requirements associated with MyCare Ohio plan-marketing activities conducted by providers and related to program. Payments that we make to providers for covered items and/or services will be fair market value, consistent with an arm’s length transaction, for bona fide and necessary services, and otherwise will comply with relevant laws and requirements, including the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute.

For a complete description of laws, rules, regulations, guidelines and other requirements applicable to the MyCare Ohio plan marketing activities conducted by providers, please refer to Chapter 3 of the Medicare Managed Care Manual, which can be found on CMS’s website at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/ManagedCareMarketing/FinalPartCMarketingGuidelines>

Please note that providers may engage in discussions with potential enrollee should a potential enrollee seek advice. However, providers must remain neutral when assisting with enrollment decisions:

- **Providers May Not:**
 - Offer scope of appointment forms.
 - Accept MyCare Ohio plan enrollment applications.
 - Make phone calls or direct, urge or attempt to persuade potential enrollees to enroll in a specific plan based on financial or any other interests of the provider.
 - Mail marketing materials on behalf of Aetna Better Health of Ohio.
 - Offer anything of value to induce plan enrollees to select them as their provider.
 - Offer inducements to persuade potential enrollees to enroll in a particular plan or organization.
 - Conduct health screening as a marketing activity.
 - Accept compensation directly or indirectly from the plan for potential enrollee enrollment activities; and
 - Distribute materials/applications within an exam room setting. (Following Section 1140 of the Social Security Act Under Section 1140 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320b–10, it is forbidden for any person to use words or symbols, including “Medicare,” “Centers for Medicare &

Medicaid Services,” “Department of Health and Human Services,” or “Health & Human Services” in a manner that would convey the false impression that the business or product mentioned is approved, endorsed, or authorized by Medicare or any other government agency, including indicating that it’s approved by ODM)

- **Providers May:**

- Advise potential enrollees that they are contracted with Aetna Better Health of Ohio.
- Make available and/or distribute Aetna Better Health of Ohio marketing materials (provider must include other Managed Care Organizations material when distributing Aetna Better Health of Ohio materials).
- Refer their patients to other sources of information, such as Aetna Better Health of Ohio’s Member Services Department, Enrollment Broker, CMS’s website, or to 1-800-MEDICARE.
- Share information with potential enrollees from CMS’s website, including the “Medicare and You” Handbook or “Medicare Options Compare” (from <http://www.medicare.gov>), or other documents that were written by or previously approved by CMS.
- Providers may announce their affiliation with Aetna Better Health of Ohio through general advertising, (e.g., radio, television, and websites). Providers may make the affiliation announcements within the first thirty (30) days of the new Provider Agreement. Provider may announce to patients once, through direct mail, e-mail, or phone, a new affiliation, which names only one Managed Care Organization. The provider and or PCP must contact our Provider Services Department to review the guidelines surrounding this process. Requirements are outlined in Chapter 3, Section 70.12.1 of the Medicare Managed Care Manual.
- Providers may distribute printed information provided by Aetna Better Health of Ohio to potential enrollees comparing the benefits of all of the different plans with which they contract as long as it is completed by a third party. Materials may not “rank order” or highlight specific plans and should include only objective information. The provider and or the PCP must contact our Provider Services Department to review the guidelines surrounding the process.

Cultural Competency

Cultural competency is the ability of individuals, as reflected in personal and organizational responsiveness, to understand the social, linguistic, moral, intellectual, and behavioral characteristics of a community or population, and translate this understanding systematically to enhance the effectiveness of health care delivery to diverse populations.

Enrollees are to receive covered services without concern about race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, genetic information or medical history, ability to pay or ability to speak English. We expect our providers to treat all enrollees with dignity and respect as required by federal law. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, such as Medicaid.

We have developed effective provider education programs that encourage respect for diversity, foster skills that facilitate communication within different cultural groups and explain the relationship between cultural competency and health outcomes. These programs provide information on our enrollees' diverse backgrounds, including the various cultural, racial, and linguistic challenges that enrollees encounter, and we develop and implement acknowledged methods for responding to those challenges. Providers receive education about such important topics as:

- The reluctance of certain cultures to discuss mental health issues and of the need to proactively encourage enrollees from such backgrounds to seek needed treatment.
- The impact that an enrollee's religious and/or cultural beliefs can have on health outcomes (e.g., belief in non-traditional healing practices.)
- The problem of health illiteracy and the need to provide patients with understandable health information (e.g., simple diagrams, communicating in the vernacular, etc.)
- History of the disability rights movement and the progression of civil rights for people with disabilities.
- Physical and programmatic barriers that impact people with disabilities accessing meaningful care.

Our Provider Services Representatives will conduct initial cultural competency training during provider orientation meetings. Our *Quality Interactions*® course series is available to physicians who wish to learn more about cultural competency. This course is designed to help you:

- Bridge cultures
- Build stronger patient relationships
- Provide more effective care to ethnic and minority patients
- Work with your patients to help obtain better health outcomes

To access the online cultural competency course, please visit:

<https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov>. Providers participating in Aetna Better Health of Ohio's network are required to identify the language needs of enrollees and to provide oral translation, oral interpretation,

and sign language services to enrollees. To assist providers with this, Aetna Better Health of Ohio makes its telephone language interpretation services and sign language interpretation services available to provider to facilitate enrollee interaction. These services are free to the enrollee and to the provider. However, if the provider chooses to use another resource for interpretation services, the provider is financially responsible for the associated costs.

Health Literacy – Limited English Proficiency (LEP) or Reading Skills

In accordance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, national standards for culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services and state requirements, Aetna Better Health of Ohio is required to make certain that Limited English Proficient (LEP) enrollees have meaningful access to health care services. Because of language differences and inability to speak or understand English, LEP persons are often excluded from programs they are eligible for, experience delays or denials of services or receive care and services based on inaccurate or incomplete information.

Enrollees are to receive covered services without concern about race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, genetic information or medical history, ability to pay or ability to speak English. Providers are required to treat all enrollees with dignity and respect, in accordance with federal law. Providers must deliver services in a culturally effective manner to all enrollees, including:

- Those with LEP or reading skills
- Those that require culturally-linguistically, or disability competent care
- Those with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- The homeless
- Individuals with physical and mental disabilities
- Those who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Those who have cognitive limitations

Providers are required to identify the language needs of enrollees and to provide oral translation, oral interpretation, and sign language services to enrollees. To assist providers with this, we make our telephonic language interpretation service available to providers to facilitate enrollee interactions. These services are free to the enrollee and to the provider. However, if the provider chooses to use another resource for interpretation services, the provider is financially responsible for associated costs. The Ohio Relay number is available for enrollees by calling 7-1-1. Our Member Services staff is trained and available to take TTY phone calls from enrollees.

Our language interpreter vendor provides interpreter services at no cost to providers and enrollees.

Language interpretation services are available to medical, MH/SA, community-based and facility-based LTSS, and pharmacy providers for use in the following scenarios: □f

an enrollee requests interpretation services, our Member Services Representatives will assist the enrollee via a three-way call to communicate in the enrollee’s native language.

- For outgoing calls, our Member Services Staff dials the language interpretation service and uses an interactive voice response system to conference with the enrollee and the interpreter.
- For face-to-face meetings, our staff (e.g., Care Managers) can conference in an interpreter to communicate with an enrollee in his or her home or another location.
- When providers need interpreter services and cannot access them from their office, they can call Aetna Better Health of Ohio to link with an interpreter.

We provide alternative methods of communication for enrollees who are visually impaired, including large print and/or other formats. If an enrollee has a question about alternative formats, please have them contact our Member Services Department at **1-855-364-0974**.

Further, we provide enrollee materials in other formats to meet specific enrollee needs. We strongly recommend the use of professional interpreters, rather than family or friends. Providers must also deliver information in a manner that is understood by the enrollee.

Alternative Formats

Aetna Better Health of Ohio provides alternative methods of communication for enrollees who are visually impaired, including large print and/or other formats. Contact our Member Services Department for alternative formats. The following vendors are used when offering LEP services to our enrollees:

- Voiance: Telephonic interpretation services
- Akorbi : In person sign language interpretation services

Please call our Provider Services Staff at **1-855-364-0974** for further assistance/questions surrounding these vendors.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Individuals with Disabilities

Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that public accommodations, such as a physician’s office, be accessible and flexible to those with disabilities. Under the provisions of the ADA, no qualified individual with a disability may be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.

Provider must comply with the physical accessibility requirements defined in accordance with the physical accessibility requirements defined in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice ADA guidance and Civil Rights Act, which include but are not limited to:

- The providers obligation to provide reasonable accommodations to those with hearing, vision, cognitive, and psychiatric disabilities (e.g., physical locations, waiting areas, examination space, furniture, bathroom facilities, large doorways, and diagnostic equipment must be accessible)
- Utilizing waiting room and exam room furniture that meets needs of all enrollees, including those with physical and non-physical disabilities.
- Accessibility along public transportation routes and/or provides enough parking
- Utilize clear signage and way finding (e.g., color and symbol signage) throughout facilities
- Provide appropriate accommodations such as large print materials etc.

Providers must comply with requirements to accommodate access to care to those enrollees with special needs, which includes but is not limited to offering extended office hours to include night and weekend appointments, offering extended hours and adopting a flexible appointment scheduling system. Regular provider office/site visits will be conducted by our Provider Services staff to make certain that network providers are compliant with ADA requirements. Providers who fail provider office/site visits may receive a CAP until the issue discovered has been resolved. Failure to resolve may warrant termination from the Program.

Additional Resources:

- <http://www.ada.gov/civilrights.htm>
- <http://www.ada.gov/>
- <http://www.ada.gov/adastd94.pdf>

Olmstead Decision

*Olmstead*²

In *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581, 119 S.Ct. 2176 (1999) ("the *Olmstead* decision"), the Supreme Court construed Title II of the ADA to require states to place qualified individuals with mental disabilities in community settings, rather than in institutions, whenever treatment professionals determine that such placement is appropriate, the affected persons do not oppose such placement, and the state can reasonably accommodate the placement, taking into account the resources available to the state and the needs of others with disabilities. The Department of Justice regulations

²The Virginia Commonwealth University, *Work Support "The Olmstead Act? What is it?", available at: <http://www.worksupport.com/resources/printView.cfm/376>*

implementing Title II of the ADA require public entities to administer their services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.

In *Olmstead*, the Supreme Court stated that institutional placements of people with disabilities who can live in, and benefit from, community settings perpetuates the unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life. The Supreme Court state that "recognition and unjustified institutional isolation of person with disabilities is a form of discrimination reflect[ed] two evident judgments":

1) "Institutional placements of people with disabilities who can live in, and benefit from, community settings perpetuates the unwarranted assumptions that persons so isolated are incapable or unworthy of participating in community life"; and

2) "confinement in an institution severely diminishes everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment." *Olmstead*, 119S.Ct. 2176, 2179, 2187 [emphasis added]. This decision effects not only all persons in institutions and segregated settings, but also people with disabilities who are at risk of institutionalization, including people with disabilities on waiting lists to receive community-based services and supports.

The Court indicated that one-way states can show they are meeting their obligations under the ADA and the *Olmstead* decisions is to develop a "comprehensive, effectively working plan for placing qualified people with mental disabilities in less restrictive settings". *Olmstead* at 2179. Based on this, almost all states are in the process of developing, or have already developed such plans.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio complies with the *Olmstead* decision, and we require our providers to provide care in accordance with the specified *Olmstead* decision for all enrollees under the MyCare Ohio plan. Additional resources:

- <http://www.worksupport.com/resources/printView.cfm/376>
- <http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/>

Filing an Olmstead Complaint

You can file an ADA complaint, including any complaint alleging Olmstead violations, alleging disability discrimination against a state or local government or a public accommodation by mail or email. To learn more about filing an ADA complaint, visit www.ada.gov/fact_on_complaint.htm

To file an ADA complaint, you may fill out this form and mail or fax the form to:

US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Civil Rights Division
Disability Rights Section –Washington, D.C. 20530 Fax:
(202) 307-1197

You may also file a complaint electronically by visiting <https://www.ada.gov/complaint/>
If you have questions about filing an ADA complaint, please call: ADA Information Line:
800-514-0301 (voice) or 800-514-0383 (TTY).

Clinical Guidelines

Aetna Better Health of Ohio has Clinical Guidelines and treatment protocols available to provider to help identify criteria for appropriate and effective use of health care services and consistency in the care provided to enrollees and the general community.

These guidelines are not intended to:

- Supplant the duty of a qualified health professional to provide treatment based on the individual needs of the enrollee
- Constitute procedures for, or the practice of, medicine by the party distributing the guidelines
- Guarantee coverage or payment for the type or level of care proposed or provided

Clinical Guidelines are available on our website at
<http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/Ohio/>

Shared Decision-Making Aids

Shared decision-making aids offer healthcare providers the opportunity to leverage best practice tools tailored to their specific medical specialties. These tools serve as valuable resources, aiding physicians and other healthcare providers to engage in comprehensive discussions with their patients regarding a spectrum of treatment options. The resources offer options ranging from conservative approaches to more invasive interventions. These decision-making aids encompass detailed information on associated risks and potential outcomes, facilitating a more informed dialogue between healthcare professionals and patients.

These aids cover a diverse array of medical scenarios, providing specialized information on topics such as diabetes, cardiovascular, wellness screening, flu prevention and more. By incorporating these decision aids into their practice, healthcare providers can enhance the collaborative decision-making process, ensuring that patients are well-informed and actively involved in determining the most suitable course of action for their individual healthcare needs.

Below are evidence-based aids that provide information about treatment options, lifestyle changes and outcomes. You can access the aids under “Resources” [here](#).

- Diabetes
- Flu prevention
- Statin choice decision aid
- Depression medication choice
- Cardiovascular primary prevention choice.

Office Administration Changes and Training

Providers are responsible to notify our Provider Services Department on any changes in professional staff at their offices (physicians, physician assistants, or nurse practitioners). Administrative changes in office staff may result in the need for additional training. Contact our Provider Services Department to schedule staff training.

Providers are also responsible for notifying Aetna Better Health of Ohio of address, phone number, acceptance of new patients and office hour changes. Please notify Aetna Better Health's Provider Services Department within 2 weeks of these changes.

Additions or Provider Terminations

In order to meet contractual obligations and state and federal regulations, providers who are in good standing, are required to report any terminations or additions to their agreement at least sixty (60) days prior to the change in order for Aetna Better Health of Ohio to comply with CMS requirements. Providers are required to continue providing services to enrollees throughout the termination period.

The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) require that Aetna Better Health of Ohio make a good faith effort to provide written notice of termination of a network provider at least sixty (60) days before the termination effective date to all enrollees who are patients seen on a regular basis by the provider whose Provider Agreement is terminating. However, please note that all enrollees who are patients of that PCP must be notified when a provider termination occurs.

Continuity of Care

Provider must continue to treat our enrollees until the treatment course has been completed or care is transitioned. An authorization may be necessary for these services. Enrollees who lose eligibility and continue to have medical needs must be referred to a facility or provider that can provide the needed care at no or low cost. We are not responsible for payment of services rendered to enrollees who are not eligible. You may also contact our Trans-disciplinary Care Management Team (TCMT) for assistance if you have further questions surrounding continuity of care.

Credentialing/Re-Credentialing

Overview

Aetna Better Health of Ohio uses current National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) standards and guidelines for the review, credentialing and re-credentialing of providers and uses the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) Universal Credentialing DataSource for all provider types. The Universal Credentialing DataSource was developed by America's leading health plans collaborating through CAQH. The Universal Credentialing DataSource is the leading industry-wide service to address one of providers' most redundant administrative tasks; the credentialing application process.

The Universal Credentialing DataSource program allows practitioners to use a standard application and a common database to submit one application, to one source, and update it on a quarterly basis to meet the needs of all of the health plans and hospitals participating in the CAQH effort. Health plans and hospitals designated by the practitioners obtain the application information directly from the database, eliminating the need to have multiple organizations contacting the practitioner for the same standard information. Practitioners update their information on a quarterly basis to ensure data is maintained in a constant state of readiness. The Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) gathers and stores detailed data from more than 600,000 practitioners nationwide.

Practitioners may not treat enrollees until they become credentialed Initial

Credentialing Individual Practitioners

Initial Credentialing is the entry point for practitioners to begin the contract process with the health plan. New practitioners, (with the exception of hospital-based providers) including practitioners joining an existing participating practice with Aetna Better Health of Ohio, must complete the credentialing process and be approved by the Credentialing Committee.

Recredentialing Individual Practitioners

Aetna Better Health of Ohio re-credentials practitioners on a regular basis (every thirty-six (36) months based on state regulations) to ensure they continue to meet health plan standards of care along with meeting legislative/regulatory and accrediting bodies (NCQA & URAC) requirements (as applicable to the health plan). Termination of the provider contract can occur if a provider misses the thirty-six (36) month timeframe for recredentialing.

Facilities (Re)Credentialing

As a pre-requisite for participation or continued participation in our network, all applicants must be contracted under a facility agreement and satisfy applicable assessment standards. Prior to participation in the network, and every three years thereafter, Aetna Better Health of Ohio Credentialing (or entity to which Aetna Better Health of Ohio has formally delegated credentialing to) will confirm that each Organizational Provider meets assessment requirements.

Ongoing monitoring

Ongoing Monitoring consists of monitoring practitioner and or provider sanctions, or loss of license to help manage potential risk of sub-standard care to our enrollees.

Licensure and Accreditation

Health delivery organizations such as hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, and ambulatory surgical centers must submit updated licensure and accreditation documentation at least annually or as indicated.

Receipt of Federal Funds, Compliance with Federal Laws and Prohibition on Discrimination

Providers are subject to all laws applicable to recipients of federal funds, including, without limitation:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as implemented by regulations at 45C.F.R. part 84
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as implemented by regulations at 45C.F.R. part 91
- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The Americans With Disabilities Act (including Olmstead Decision)

- Federal laws and regulations designed to prevent or ameliorate fraud, waste and abuse, including, but not limited to, applicable provisions of federal criminal law
- The False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3729 et. seq.)
- The Anti-Kickback Statute (section 1128B(b) of the Social Security Act)
- HIPAA administrative simplification rules at 45 C.F.R. parts 160, 162, and 164.

In addition, our network providers must comply with all applicable Medicare laws, rules and regulations for the MyCare Ohio plan, and as provided in applicable laws, rules and regulations, network providers are prohibited from discriminating against any enrollee on the basis of health status.

Financial Liability for Payment for Services

Balance billing enrollees is prohibited under the MyCare Ohio plan. In no event should a provider bill an enrollee (or a person acting on behalf of an enrollee) for payment of fees that are the legal obligation of Aetna Better Health of Ohio. This includes any coinsurance, deductibles, financial penalties, or any other amount in full or in part.

Providers must make certain that they are:

- Agreeing not to hold enrollees liable for payment of any fees that are the legal obligation of Aetna Better
- Health of Ohio, and must indemnify the enrollee for payment of any fees that are the legal obligation of Aetna Better Health of Ohio for services furnished by providers that have been authorized by Aetna Better Health of Ohio to service such enrollees, as long as the enrollee follows Aetna Better Health of Ohio's rules for accessing services described in the approved enrollee Evidence of Coverage (EOC) and or their Enrollee Handbook.
- Agreeing not to bill an enrollee for medically necessary services covered under the plan and to always notify enrollees prior to rendering services.
- Agreeing to clearly advise an enrollee, prior to furnishing a non-covered service, of the enrollee's responsibility to pay the full cost of the services.
- Agreeing that when referring an enrollee to another provider for a non-covered service, provider must make certain that the enrollee is aware of his or her obligation to pay in full for such non-covered services.

Out of Network Providers – Transition of Care

We will authorize service through an Out-of-Network Provider Agreement when an enrollee with a special need or service is not able to be served through a contracted provider. Our Medical Management team will arrange care by authorizing services to an out-of-network provider and facilitating transportation through the state's medical transportation program when there are no providers that can meet the enrollee's special need available in a nearby location. If needed, our Provider Services Department will negotiate a Single Case Agreement (SCA) for the service and refer the provider to our Network Development Team for recruitment to join the provider

network. The enrollee may be transitioned to a network provider when the treatment or service has been completed or the enrollee’s condition is stable enough to allow a transfer of care.

Risk Arrangements

The results of our risk arrangements are made available, upon request, to specified groups and to interested stakeholders.

Chapter 5 – Covered Services

Under the MyCare Ohio plan, Aetna Better Health of Ohio is responsible for administering medically necessary Medicare Parts A, B, and D and Medicaid State Plan and 1115(a) and 1915(c) waiver items and services to covered enrollees.

The following Benefits Chart is a general list of services the plan covers. It lists preventive services first and then categories of other services in alphabetical order. It also explains the covered services, how to access the services, and if there are any limits or restrictions on the services. If you can't find the service you are looking for, have questions, or need additional information on covered services and how to access services, contact Provider Services.

Preventive Visits

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Annual Checkup</p> <p>This is a visit to make or update a prevention plan based on the member's current risk factors. Annual checkups are covered once every 12 months.</p> <p>Note: Members cannot have their first annual checkup within 12 months of their "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit. They will be covered for annual checkups after they have had Part B for 12 months. Members do not need to have had a "Welcome to Medicare" visit first.</p>	
<p>"Welcome to Medicare" visit</p> <p>If the member has been in Medicare Part B for 12 months or less, they can get a one-time "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit. This visit includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a review of the member's health, • education and counseling about the preventive services needed (including screenings and shots), and • referrals for other care if needed 	

If you have questions, please call Provider Services at **1-855-364-0974**, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information visit www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio.

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Well child check-up (also known as Healthchek)</p> <p>Healthchek is Ohio’s early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment (EPSDT) benefit for everyone in Medicaid from birth to under 21 years of age. Healthchek covers medical, vision, dental, hearing, nutritional, development, and mental health exams. It also includes immunizations, health education, and laboratory tests.</p>	

Preventive Services and Screenings

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Abdominal aortic aneurysm screening</p> <p>The plan covers abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound screenings if the member is at risk.</p>	
<p>Alcohol misuse screening and counseling</p> <p>The plan covers alcohol-misuse screenings for adults. This includes pregnant women.</p>	<p>Prior authorization is required</p>
<p>Breast cancer screening</p> <p>The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One baseline mammogram between the ages of 35 and 39 • One screening mammogram every 12 months for women age 40 and older • Women under the age of 35 who are at high risk for developing breast cancer may also be eligible for mammograms • Annual clinical breast exams 	<p>Prior authorization required for women under the age of 35.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Cardiovascular (heart) disease testing</p> <p>The plan covers blood tests to check for cardiovascular disease. These blood tests also check for defects due to high risk of heart disease</p>	
<p>Cervical and vaginal cancer screening</p> <p>The plan covers pap tests and pelvic exams annually for all women.</p>	
<p>Colorectal cancer screening</p> <p>For people 50 and older or at high risk of colorectal cancer, the plan covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible sigmoidoscopy (or screening barium enema) • Fecal occult blood test • Screening colonoscopy • Guaiac-based fecal occult blood test or fecal immunochemical test • DNA based colorectal screening <p>For people not at high risk of colorectal cancer, the plan will pay for one screening colonoscopy every ten years (but not within 48 months of a screening sigmoidoscopy).</p>	
<p>Counseling and interventions to stop smoking or tobacco use</p> <p>The plan covers tobacco cessation counseling and intervention.</p>	
<p>Depression screening</p> <p>The plan covers depression screening.</p>	

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Diabetes screening The plan covers diabetes screening (includes fasting glucose tests).</p>	
<p>HIV screening The plan covers HIV screening exams for people who ask for an HIV screening test or are at increased risk for HIV infection.</p>	
<p>Immunizations The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccines for children under age 21 • Pneumonia vaccine • Flu shots, once a year, in the fall or winter • Hepatitis B vaccine if you are at high or intermediate risk of getting hepatitis B • Other vaccines if you are at risk and they meet Medicare Part B or Medicaid coverage rules • Other vaccines that meet the Medicare Part D coverage rules. 	<p>Some vaccines (other than your annual flu shot) may require prior authorization.</p>
<p>Lung cancer screening The plan will pay for lung cancer screening every 12 months if the member:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is aged 55-77, and • Has a counseling and shared decision-making visit with their doctor or other qualified provider, and • Have smoked at least 1 pack a day for 30 years with no signs or symptoms of lung cancer, or smoke now, or have quit within the last 15 years. <p>After the first screening, the plan will pay for another screening each year with a written order from a doctor, or other qualified provider.</p>	

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Obesity screening and therapy to keep weight down</p> <p>The plan covers counseling to help members lose weight.</p>	
<p>Prostate cancer screening</p> <p>The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A digital rectal exam • A prostate specific antigen (PSA) test 	
<p>Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) screening and counseling</p> <p>The plan covers screenings for sexually transmitted infections, including but not limited to chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and hepatitis B.</p> <p>The plan also covers face-to-face, high-intensity behavioral counseling sessions for sexually active adults at increased risk for STIs. Each session can be 20 to 30 minutes long.</p>	

Other Services

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Acupuncture</p> <p>The plan covers acupuncture for pain management of headaches and lower back pain.</p>	<p>Referral required.</p> <p>Prior authorization is required for treatments more than 30 days per year.</p>
<p>Ambulance and wheelchair van services</p> <p>Covered emergency ambulance transport services include fixed-wing, rotary-wing, and ground ambulance services. The ambulance will take the member to the nearest place that can provide care. The member’s condition must be serious enough that other ways of getting to a place of care could risk their health or, if pregnant, the health of the member’s child.</p> <p>In cases that are not emergencies, ambulance or wheelchair van transport services are covered when medically necessary.</p>	<p>Prior authorization is required for non-emergency services.</p> <p>Wheelchair van transportation requires that the member notify Aetna Better Health of Ohio of their need to schedule van support so we can make sure the correct vehicle is scheduled based on individual transportation needs.</p>
<p>Cell Phone Benefit</p> <p>Aetna Better Health of Ohio members who are interested in the Lifetime, federal free cell phone program, are provided our contracted Lifeline vendor’s phone number or application to complete in order to determine if they qualify. Qualified members are then eligible to receive a smartphone with talk time and data. These Lifeline phones provide free calls to and from the plan’s Member Services number and as appropriate, free health-related texts from the plan.</p>	<p>For members who qualify for the federal free cell phone program.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Chiropractic services The plan covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic x-rays • Adjustments of the spine to correct alignment 	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>
<p>Dental services The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive oral exam (one per provider-patient relationship) • Periodic oral exam once every 180 days for members under 21 years of age, and once every 365 days for members age 21 and older • Preventive services including prophylaxis, fluoride for members under age 21, sealants, and space maintainers • Routine radiographs/diagnostic imaging • Comprehensive dental services including non-routine diagnostic, restorative, endodontic, periodontic, prosthodontic, orthodontic, and surgery services 	<p>Some services may require prior authorization.</p>
<p>Diabetic services The plan covers the following services for all people who have diabetes (whether they use insulin or not):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training to manage your diabetes, in some cases • Supplies to monitor your blood glucose, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Blood glucose monitors and test strips – Lancet devices and lancets – Glucose-control solutions for checking the accuracy of test strips and monitors • For people with diabetes who have severe diabetic foot disease: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One pair of therapeutic custom-molded shoes (including inserts) and two extra pairs of inserts each calendar year, or – One pair of depth shoes and three pairs of inserts each year (not including the non-customized removable inserts provided with such shoes) <p>The plan also covers fitting the therapeutic custom-molded shoes or depth shoes.</p>	<p>Prior authorization may be required for non-routine diabetic services such as those performed by a Podiatrist (foot specialist). See the Podiatry section below in this handbook.</p> <p>Therapeutic custom molded shoes, depth shoes and covered shoe inserts require a prescription from your provider.</p> <p>Aetna Better Health of Ohio may limit diabetic supplies and services to specific manufacturers.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Durable medical equipment (DME) and related supplies</p> <p>Covered DME includes, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheelchairs • Crutches • Powered mattress systems • Diabetic supplies • Hospital beds ordered by a provider for use in the home • Intravenous (IV) infusion pumps • Speech generating devices • Oxygen equipment and supplies • Nebulizers • Walkers <p>Other items (such as incontinence garments, enteral nutritional products, ostomy and urological supplies, and surgical dressings and related supplies) may be covered. For additional types of supplies that the plan covers, see the sections on diabetic services, hearing services, and prosthetic devices.</p> <p>The plan may also cover learning how to use, modify, or repair your item. Your Care Team will work with you to decide if these other items and services are right for you and will be in your Individualized Care Plan.</p> <p>We will cover all DME that Medicare and Medicaid usually cover. If our supplier in your area does not carry a particular brand or maker, you may ask them if they can special-order it for you.</p>	<p>Prior authorization may be required.</p>

<p align="center">Services covered by our plan</p>	<p align="center">Limitations and exceptions</p>
<p>Emergency care (see also “urgently needed care”)</p> <p>Emergency care means services that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • given by a provider trained to give emergency services, and • needed to treat a medical emergency. <p>A medical emergency is a medical condition with severe pain or serious injury. The condition is so serious that, if it doesn’t get immediate medical attention, anyone with an average knowledge of health and medicine could expect it to result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serious risk to the health of the member, or their unborn child; or • serious harm to bodily functions; or • serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; or • in the case of a pregnant woman in active labor, when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – there is not enough time to safely transfer the member to another hospital before delivery. – a transfer to another hospital may pose a threat to the health of the member or the unborn child. <p>In an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room (ER) or other appropriate setting.</p> <p>We will only cover emergency care within the U.S. and its territories.</p>	<p>If a member receives emergency care at an out-of-network hospital and needs inpatient care after their emergency is stabilized, the member must return to a network hospital for their care to continue to be paid for.</p> <p>Members may stay in the out-of-network hospital for inpatient care if the plan approves the stay.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Family planning services</p> <p>The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family planning exam and medical treatment • Family planning lab and diagnostic tests • Family planning methods (birth control pills, patch, ring, IUD, injections, implants) • Family planning supplies (condom, sponge, foam, film, diaphragm, cap) • Counseling and diagnosis of infertility, and related services • Counseling and testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), AIDS, and other HIV-related conditions • Treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) • Treatment for AIDS and other HIV-related conditions • Voluntary sterilization (member must be age 21 or older and must sign a federal sterilization consent form. At least 30 days, but not more than 180 days, must pass between the date that the member signs the form and the date of surgery.) • Screening, diagnosis and counseling for genetic anomalies and/or hereditary metabolic disorders • Treatment for medical conditions of infertility (This service does not include artificial ways to become pregnant.) <p>Note: Members can get family planning services from a network or out-of-network qualified family planning provider (for example Planned Parenthood) listed in the Provider and Pharmacy Directory. They may also get family planning services from a network certified nurse midwife, obstetrician, gynecologist, or primary care provider.</p>	<p>Some diagnostic tests require authorization. Prior authorization is required for genetic testing.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Federally Qualified Health Centers The plan covers the following services at Federally Qualified Health Centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office visits for primary care and specialists' services • Physical therapy services • Speech pathology and audiology services • Dental services • Podiatry services • Optometric and/or optician services • Chiropractic services • Transportation services • Mental health services <p>Note: You can get services from a network or out-of-network Federally Qualified Health Center.</p>	Some services may require prior authorization.
<p>Health and wellness education programs Aetna Better Health of Ohio offers a wide array of health and nutrition education tools and programs available to members at no additional costs, including educational member materials, outreach from the integrated Care Team, use of education tools and support systems.</p> <p>These services will be coordinated by your care manager and integrated care team.</p>	Prior authorization may be required.
<p>Hearing services and supplies The plan covers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing and balance tests to determine the need for treatment (covered as outpatient care when received from a physician, audiologist, or other qualified provider) • Hearing aids, batteries, and accessories (including repair and/or replacement) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Conventional hearing aids are covered once every 4 years – Digital/programmable hearing aids are covered once every 5 years 	Prior authorization is required for hearing aids.

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Home and community-based waiver services The plan covers the following home and community-based waiver services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult day health services • Alternative meals service • Assisted living services • Choices home care attendant • Chore services • Community transition • Emergency response services • Enhanced community living services • Home care attendant • Home delivered meals • Home medical equipment and supplemental adaptive and assistive devices • Home modification, maintenance, and repair • Homemaker services • Independent living assistance • Nutritional consultation • Out of home respite services • Personal care services • Pest control • Social work counseling • Waiver nursing services • Waiver transportation 	<p>These services are available only if the need for long-term care has been determined by Ohio Medicaid.</p> <p>Prior authorization is required.</p>
<p>Home health services The plan covers the following services provided by a home health agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home health aide and/or nursing services • Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech Therapy • Private duty nursing (may also be provided by an independent provider) • Home infusion therapy for the administration of medications, nutrients, or other solutions intravenously or enterally • Medical and social services • Medical equipment and supplies 	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Hospice care Members can get care from any hospice program certified by Medicare.</p> <p>The plan will cover the following while the member is receiving hospice services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs to treat symptoms and pain • Short-term respite care • Home care • Nursing facility care <p>Hospice services and services covered by Medicare Part A or B are billed to Medicare:</p> <p>For services covered by Aetna Better Health of Ohio but not covered by Medicare Part A or B: Aetna Better Health of Ohio will cover plan-covered services not covered under Medicare Part A or B. The plan will cover the services whether or not they are related to the member’s terminal prognosis.</p> <p>For drugs that may be covered by Aetna Better Health of Ohio’s Medicare Part D benefit: Drugs are never covered by both hospice and our plan at the same time.</p>	<p>Prior authorization is required</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Inpatient behavioral health services</p> <p>The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inpatient psychiatric care in a private or public freestanding psychiatric hospital or general hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For members 22-64 years of age in a freestanding psychiatric hospital with more than 16 beds, there is a 190-day lifetime limit • Inpatient detoxification care 	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>
<p>Inpatient hospital care</p> <p>The plan covers the following services, and maybe other services not listed here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-private room (or a private room if it is medically necessary) • Meals, including special diets • Regular nursing services • Costs of special care units, such as intensive care or coronary care units • Drugs and medications • Lab tests • X-rays and other radiology services • Needed surgical and medical supplies • Appliances, such as wheelchairs for use in the hospital • Operating and recovery room services • Physical, occupational, and speech therapy • Inpatient substance abuse services • Blood, including storage and administration • Physician/provider services • In some cases, the following types of transplants: corneal, kidney, kidney/pancreatic, heart, liver, lung, heart/lung, bone marrow, stem cell, and intestinal/multivesicular <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This benefit is continued on the next page</i></p>	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Inpatient hospital care (continued)</p> <p>Transplant providers may be local or outside of the service area. If local transplant providers are willing to accept the Medicare rate, then the member can get transplant services locally or outside the pattern of care for their community. If Aetna Better Health of Ohio provides transplant services outside the pattern of care for the member’s community and the member chooses to get their transplant there, we will arrange or cover lodging and travel costs for the member and one other person.</p>	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>
<p>Kidney disease services and supplies</p> <p>The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kidney disease education services to teach kidney care and help you make good decisions about your care • Outpatient dialysis treatments, including dialysis treatments when temporarily out of the service area. • Inpatient dialysis treatments if admitted as an inpatient to a hospital for special care • Self-dialysis training, including training for the member and anyone helping them with their home dialysis treatments • Home dialysis equipment and supplies • Certain home support services, such as necessary visits by trained dialysis workers to check on the member’s home dialysis, to help in emergencies, and to check the member’s dialysis equipment and water supply <p>Note: The Medicare Part B drug benefit covers some drugs for dialysis. For information, please see “Medicare Part B prescription drugs” in this chart.</p>	<p>Some services require prior authorization.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Medical nutrition therapy</p> <p>This benefit is for people with diabetes or kidney disease without dialysis. It is also for after a kidney transplant when ordered by a doctor.</p> <p>The plan covers three hours of one-on-one counseling services during the member’s first year that they get medical nutrition therapy services under Medicare. (This includes our plan, any other Medicare Advantage plan, or Medicare.) We cover two hours of one-on-one counseling services each year after that.</p>	<p>If the member’s condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes, they may be able to get more hours of treatment with a doctor’s order. A doctor must prescribe these services and renew the order each year if treatment is needed in the next calendar year.</p>
<p>Medicare Part B prescription drugs</p> <p>These drugs are covered under Part B of Medicare. Aetna Better Health of Ohio covers the following drugs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injectable drugs received in an office, hospital outpatient, or ambulatory surgery center place of service • Drugs taken using durable medical equipment (such as nebulizers) that were authorized by the plan • Clotting factors the member gives themselves by injection if they have hemophilia • Immunosuppressive drugs if the member was enrolled in Medicare Part A at the time of the organ transplant • Osteoporosis drugs that are injected. These drugs are paid for if the member is homebound, has a bone fracture that a doctor certifies was related to post-menopausal osteoporosis, and cannot inject the drug themselves • Antigens • Certain oral anti-cancer drugs and anti-nausea drugs • Certain drugs for home dialysis, including heparin, the antidote for heparin (when medically needed), topical anesthetics, and erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (such as Epogen®, Procrit®, Epoetin Alfa, Aranesp®, or Darbepoetin Alfa) • IV immune globulin for the home treatment of primary immune deficiency diseases 	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Mental health and substance abuse services at addiction treatment centers</p> <p>The plan covers the following services at addiction treatment centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambulatory detoxification • Assessment • Case management • Counseling • Crisis intervention • Intensive outpatient • Alcohol/drug screening analysis/lab urinalysis • Medical/somatic • Methadone administration • Office administered medications for addiction including vivitrol and buprenorphine induction <p>See “Inpatient behavioral health services” and “Outpatient mental health care” for additional information.</p>	<p>Some services may require prior authorization.</p>
<p>Mental health and substance abuse services at community mental health centers</p> <p>The plan covers the following services at certified community mental health centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health assessment/diagnostic psychiatric interview • Community psychiatric supportive treatment • (CPST) services • Counseling and therapy • Crisis intervention • Pharmacological management • Pre-hospital admission screening • Certain office administered injectable antipsychotic medications • Partial hospitalization 	<p>Some services may require prior authorization.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Nursing and skilled nursing facility (SNF) care The plan covers the following services, and maybe other services not listed here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A semi-private room, or a private room if it is medically needed • Meals, including special diets • Nursing services • Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy • Drugs the member receives as part of their plan of care, including substances that are naturally in the body, such as blood-clotting factors • Blood, including storage and administration • Medical and surgical supplies given by nursing facilities • Lab tests given by nursing facilities • X-rays and other radiology services given by nursing facilities • Durable Medical Equipment, such as wheelchairs, usually given by nursing facilities • Physician/provider services <p>Members may be able to get care from a facility not in our network. A member can get Medicaid nursing facility care from the following if it accepts our plan’s amounts for payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nursing home or continuing care retirement community where the member lived on the day, they became an Aetna Better Health of Ohio member <p>Members can get Medicare nursing facility care from the following places if they accept our plan’s amounts for payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nursing home or continuing care retirement community where the member lived before, they went to the hospital (as long as it provides nursing facility care) • A nursing facility where the member’s spouse lives at the time they leave the hospital 	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Outpatient mental health care</p> <p>The plan covers mental health services provided by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a state-licensed psychiatrist or doctor, • a clinical psychologist, • a clinical social worker, • a clinical nurse specialist, • a nurse practitioner, • a physician assistant, or • any other qualified mental health care professional as allowed under applicable state laws. <p>The plan covers the following services, and maybe other services not listed here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinic services and general hospital outpatient psychiatric services • Day treatment • Psychosocial rehab services 	<p>Some services may require prior authorization.</p>
<p>Outpatient services</p> <p>The plan covers services in an outpatient setting for diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury.</p> <p>The following are examples of covered services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services in an emergency department or outpatient clinic, such as observation services or outpatient surgery • The plan covers outpatient surgery and services at hospital outpatient facilities and ambulatory surgical centers • Chemotherapy • Labs and diagnostic tests (for example urinalysis) • Mental health care, including care in a partial hospitalization program, if a doctor certifies that inpatient treatment would be needed without it • Imaging (for example x-rays, CTs, MRIs) • Radiation (radium and isotope) therapy, including technician materials and supplies • Blood, including storage and administration • Medical supplies, such as splints and casts • Preventive screenings and services listed throughout the Benefits Chart • Drugs that cannot be self-administered by the member 	<p>Some services may require prior authorization except in the case of an emergency.</p>

If you have questions, please call Provider Services at **1-855-364-0974**, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information visit www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio.

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Over-the-counter products The plan provides \$50 per month for certain over-the counter products. There is no carryover month-to-month.</p>	<p>\$50 limit per month. No carry-over month-to-month.</p>
<p>Physician/provider services, including doctor’s office visits The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care or surgery services given in places such as a physician’s office, certified ambulatory surgical center, or hospital outpatient department • Consultation, diagnosis, and treatment by a specialist • Second opinion by another network provider before a medical procedure • Non-routine dental care. Covered services are limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – surgery of the jaw or related structures, – setting fractures of the jaw or facial bones, – pulling teeth before radiation treatments of neoplastic cancer, or – services that would be covered when provided by a physician. • Virtual check-ins (for example, by phone or video chat) with your provider for 5-10 minutes if: you’re not a new patient and the check-in isn’t related to an office visit in the past 7 days and the check-in doesn’t lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment • Evaluation of video and/or images you sent to your doctor and explanation and follow up by your doctor within 24 hours if: you’re not a new patient and the evaluation isn’t related to an office visit in the past 7 days and the evaluation doesn’t lead to an office visit within 24 hours or the soonest available appointment • Consultation your doctor has with other doctors by phone, the Internet, or electronic health record if you’re not a new patient 	<p>Prior authorization may be required.</p>

Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and supervised exercise therapy

The member must meet medical necessity criteria for starting any of the therapies and have a comprehensive evaluation of the member’s potential for improvement. There should also be a signed physician order for initiation of therapy.

The number of therapy visits authorized will be based on the severity and type of condition.

Note: Frequency of therapy is expected to be 1-2 times per week, up to a maximum of 3 times per week for severe problems. There is no evidence that therapy more often than 3 times per week improves outcomes.

This benefit is continued on the next page

Aetna Better Health of Ohio will approve an Evaluation and 12 therapy requests for an acute Initial joint replacement (hip, knee, shoulder) that is done in a non-hospital setting and meets medical necessity.

Prior authorization for individual therapy services may be considered when all of the following criteria are met:

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and supervised exercise therapy (continued) The following will be the policy for therapy requests:</p> <p>Home setting- Aetna Better Health of Ohio will approve an Evaluation. All therapy visits must then be prior authorized.</p> <p>Residential Long-Term Care ((LTC)- Aetna Better Health of Ohio will approve an Evaluation. All therapy visits must then be prior authorized.</p> <p>Outpatient Therapy (non hospital)— Aetna Better Health of Ohio will approve an Evaluation and <u>6 visits</u> for an acute condition.</p> <p>Outpatient Therapy in hospital setting---Both the evaluation and visits must be prior authorized by Aetna Better Health of Ohio</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This benefit is continued on the next page</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client has an acute medical condition resulting in a significant decrease in functional ability that will benefit from therapy services • Documentation supports treatment goals and outcomes for the specific therapy disciplines requested. • Services do not duplicate those that are provided concurrently by any other therapy. • Services are within the provider's scope of practice, as defined by state law <p>Extension of therapy should only be considered when all of the following are present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional progress has been made during initial therapy and this is clearly documented in clinical notes, citing specific functional measurements over time.

<p align="center">Services covered by our plan</p>	<p align="center">Limitations and exceptions</p>
<p>Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and supervised exercise therapy (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals of therapy are not yet met or significantly change due to comorbid conditions. • Patient is actively participating in treatment sessions, • Patient is adherent to plan of care, • Patient demonstrates potential to reach prior level of function.
<p>Podiatry services The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis and medical or surgical treatment of injuries and diseases of the foot, the muscles and tendons of the leg governing the foot, and superficial lesions of the hand other than those associated with trauma • Routine foot care for members with conditions affecting the legs, such as diabetes 	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>
<p>Prosthetic devices and related supplies Prosthetic devices replace all or part of a body part or function. The following are examples of covered prosthetic devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colostomy bags and supplies related to colostomy care • Pacemakers • Braces • Prosthetic shoes • Artificial arms and legs • Breast prostheses (including a surgical brassiere after a mastectomy) • Dental devices <p align="center"><i>This benefit is continued on the next page</i></p>	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Prosthetic devices and related supplies (continued) The plan also covers some supplies related to prosthetic devices and the repair or replacement of prosthetic devices.</p> <p>The plan offers some coverage after cataract removal or cataract surgery. See “Vision Care” later in this section for details.</p>	
<p>Rehabilitation services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient rehabilitation services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The plan covers physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. – Members may receive outpatient rehabilitation services from hospital outpatient departments, independent therapist offices, comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs), and other facilities. • Cardiac (heart) rehabilitation services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The plan covers cardiac rehabilitation services such as exercise, education, and counseling for certain conditions. – The plan also covers intensive cardiac rehabilitation programs, which are more intense than cardiac rehabilitation programs. • Pulmonary rehabilitation services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The plan covers pulmonary rehabilitation programs for members who have moderate to very severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). 	<p>Prior authorization is required</p>
<p>Rural Health Clinics The plan covers the following services at Rural Health Clinics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office visits for primary care and specialists’ services • Clinical psychologist • Clinical social worker for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness • Visiting nurse services in certain situations <p>Note: Members may receive services from a network or out-of-network Rural Health Clinic.</p>	<p>Some services may require prior authorization</p>

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Specialized Recovery Services (SRS) Program Adult members who have been diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness, and live in the community, may be eligible to get SRS specific to their recovery needs. The plan covers the following three services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recovery Management - Recovery managers will work with the member to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – develop a person-centered care plan which reflects their personal goals and desired outcomes, – regularly monitor the member’s plan through regular meetings, and – provide information and referrals. <p>Individualized Placement and Support-Supported Employment (IPS-SE) – Supported employment services can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help the member find a job if they are interested in working, • evaluate their interests, skills, and experiences as they relate to their employment goals, and • provide ongoing support to help the member stay employed. • Peer Recovery Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – peer recovery supporters use their own experiences with mental health and substance use disorders to help the member reach their recovery goals, and – goals are included in a care plan the member designs based on their preferences and the availability of community and supports. <p>The peer relationship can help members focus on strategies and progress towards self-determination, self-advocacy, well-being and independence.</p>	<p>If a member is interested in SRS they will be connected with a recovery manager who will begin the assessment for eligibility looking at things such as their diagnosis and their need for help with activities such as medical appointments, social interactions and living skills.</p>
<p>Silver Sneakers Community fitness program promoting greater health engagement and accountability with no cost to members. Provides members with regular exercise (strength training, aerobics, flexibility) and social support opportunities.</p>	

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Transportation for non-emergency services (see also “Ambulance and wheelchair van services”)</p> <p>If a member must travel 30 miles or more from their home to get covered health care services, Aetna Better Health of Ohio will provide transportation to and from the provider’s office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the transportation assistance that Aetna Better Health of Ohio provides, members can still get help with transportation for certain services through the Non-Emergency Transportation (NET) program. <p>For members who join our Member Advisory Committee, we will provide transportation to attend committee meetings. For more information about the Member Advisory Committee, call Member Services at 1-855-364-0974, Option 1 (TTY: 711), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or talk to your care manager.</p> <p>In addition, Aetna Better Health of Ohio provides members with transportation for 30 round trips or 60 one-way trips to Plan-approved locations.</p> <p>Transportation requests must be made 3 business days in advance. Call Member Services at 1-855-364-0974 Option 1, (TTY: 711), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and select the prompt for transportation.</p>	<p>Prior authorization is required.</p>
<p>Urgently needed care</p> <p>Urgently needed care is care given to treat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a non-emergency, or • a sudden medical illness, or • an injury, or • a condition that needs care right away. <p>If a member requires urgently needed care, they should first try to get it from a network provider. However, members may use out-of-network providers when they cannot get to a network provider.</p>	

Services covered by our plan	Limitations and exceptions
<p>Vision care</p> <p>The plan covers the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One comprehensive eye exam, complete frame, and pair of lenses (contact lenses, if medically necessary) are covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – per 12-month period for members under 21 and over 59 years of age; or – per 24-month period for members 21 through 59 years of age. • Vision training • Services for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of the eye, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Annual eye exams for diabetic retinopathy for people with diabetes and treatment for age-related macular degeneration – One glaucoma screening each year for members under the age of 20 or age 50 and older, members with a family history of glaucoma, members with diabetes, African Americans who are age 50 and older, and Hispanic Americans who are age 65 and older. – One pair of glasses or contact lenses after each cataract surgery when the doctor inserts an intraocular lens. (If the member has two separate cataract surgeries, they must get one pair of glasses after each surgery. The member cannot get two pairs of glasses after the second surgery, even if they did not get a pair of glasses after their first surgery). 	<p>Prior authorization may be required</p>

Outside Service Area

Aetna Better Health of Ohio covers emergencies and urgent services only. If the enrollee is out of the services area and they are having an emergency, they need to call 911, or go to the closest emergency room. The hospital must contact our Member Services Department to inform them that the enrollee is being admitted.

For urgent care, please instruct the enrollee to go to the nearest urgent care provider. Routine care out of the service area or out of the country is not covered.

If you have questions, please call Provider Services at **1-855-364-0974**, between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. For more information visit www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio.

Non-Covered Benefits

The list below describes some services and items that are not covered by the plan under any conditions and some that are excluded by the plan only in some cases.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio, Medicare, and Medicaid will not cover the excluded medical benefits listed in this section (or anywhere else in this Provider Manual).

The following items and services are not covered by our plan:

- Services considered not “reasonable and necessary,” according to the standards of Medicare and Medicaid, unless these services are listed by our plan as covered services.
- Experimental medical and surgical treatments, items, and drugs, unless covered by Medicare or under a Medicare-approved clinical research study or by our plan.
- Surgical treatment for morbid obesity, except when it is medically needed, and Medicare covers it.
- A private room in a hospital, except when it is medically needed.
- Personal items in an enrollee’s room at a hospital or a nursing facility, such as a telephone or a television.
- Inpatient hospital custodial care.
- Full-time nursing care in an enrollee’s home.
- Elective or voluntary enhancement procedures or services (including weight loss, hair growth, sexual performance, athletic performance, cosmetic purposes, anti-aging and mental performance), except when medically needed.
- Cosmetic surgery or other cosmetic work, unless it is needed because of an accidental injury or to improve a part of the body that is not shaped right. However, the plan will cover reconstruction of a breast after a mastectomy and for treating the other breast to match it.
- Chiropractic care, other than diagnostic x-rays and manual manipulation (adjustments) of the spine to correct alignment consistent with Medicare and Medicaid coverage guidelines.
- Routine foot care, except for the limited coverage provided according to Medicare and Medicaid guidelines.
- Orthopedic shoes, unless the shoes are part of a leg brace and are included in the cost of the brace, or the shoes are for an enrollee with diabetic foot disease.

- Supportive devices for the feet, except for orthopedic or therapeutic shoes for enrollee with diabetic foot disease.
- Infertility services for males or females.
- Abortions, except in the case of a reported rape, incest, or when medically necessary to save the life of the mother.
- Acupuncture.
- Naturopath services (the use of natural or alternative treatments).
- Services provided to veterans in Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities
- Services to find cause of death (autopsy).
- Voluntary sterilization if under 21 years of age or legally incapable of consenting to the procedure.
- Reversal of sterilization procedure, and non-prescription contraceptive supplies.
- Paternity testing.

Post-Stabilization Services

We cover post-stabilization services provided by a contracted or non-contracted provider in any of the following situations:

- When Aetna Better Health of Ohio authorized the services
- Such services were administered to maintain the enrollee has stabilized condition within one (1) hour after a request to Aetna Better Health of Ohio for authorization of further post-stabilization services.
- When Aetna Better Health of Ohio does not respond to a request to authorize further post-stabilization services within one hour, could not be contacted, or cannot reach an agreement with the treating provider concerning the enrollee’s care and a contracted provider is unavailable for a consultation. (In this situation, the treating provider may continue the enrollee’s care until a contracted provider either concurs with the treating provider’s plan of care or assumes responsibility for the enrollee’s care.)

Emergency Services

We cover emergency services without requiring prior authorization for enrollees, whether the emergency services are provided by a contracted or non-contracted provider. We cover emergency services provided outside of the contracting area except in the following circumstances:

- When services are for elective care.

- When care is required as a result of circumstances that could reasonably have been foreseen prior to the enrollee’s departure from the contracting area.
- When routine delivery, at term, if enrollee is outside the contracting area against medical advice, unless the enrollee is outside of the contracting area due to circumstances beyond her control. Unexpected hospitalization due to complications of pregnancy are covered.

We abide by the determination of the physician regarding whether an enrollee is sufficiently stabilized for discharge or transfer to another facility.

Emergency Transportation

Transportation services are covered through LogistiCare. This sub-contractor provides non-ambulance, non-emergent transportation services.

Ambulance services (including air ambulance) are covered by Aetna Better Health of Ohio. Emergency transportation services are covered for emergencies only, and enrollees who experience a medical emergency should call 911.

Non-emergent transportation

Aetna Better Health of Ohio covers non-emergent transportation from an enrollee’s home to a covered health care service.

- Medicare-Medicaid enrollees: 30 round trips, or 60 one-way trips to plan approved locations per year
- Medicaid only enrollees: Transportation to Medicaid covered services (including covered services where Medicaid pays secondary) when the service is 30 miles or more from the enrollee’s home.

Transportation to member advisory meetings for any enrollee who serves on the committee is also available upon request.

Laboratory Services - Quest Diagnostics

Laboratory services will be provided through Quest Diagnostics.

Healthchek (EPSDT) Services

Healthchek is the name for the federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) service, which is required for children under age 21 enrolled in Ohio

Medicaid. Healthchek provides comprehensive preventive health care, diagnosis, and treatment to children under 21.

According to federal law, any Medicaid service that a child needs must be covered if determined medically necessary by Ohio rules and laws. Therefore, Ohio covers more services for children than for adults. These services help Ohio's children get the care they need before a treatable illness becomes serious. Healthchek also covers complete medical, vision, dental, hearing, nutritional, developmental, and mental health exams, in addition to other care to treat physical, mental, or other problems or conditions found by an exam.

For additional information about Healthchek, please visit the following website:

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/FOROHIOANS/Programs/Healthchek.aspx>

See the benefit grid for additional details.

Dental Services

Dental services are provided through DentaQuest. DentaQuest is responsible for covering routine and specialty dental services, the administration of the dental network, and claim payment for dental services.

All Aetna Better Health of Ohio enrollees receive dental benefits.

- All enrollees get an oral exam, cleaning, fluoride treatment and x-ray every 6 months (twice per year).
- Other medically necessary dental services may be covered and may require prior authorization

Vision Services

Routine vision services are provided through Vision Service Plan (VSP). Vision Service Plan (VSP) covers routine eye exams, prescription frames, and lenses, administers the vision network, and processes vision claim payment. Medical and surgical care of the eye (including any medical care provided by an optometrist) is covered directly by Aetna Better Health of Ohio. Claims for routine vision care should be billed to VSP. Claims for medical or surgical care of the eye should be billed to Aetna Better Health of Ohio. Optometrists or ophthalmologists that plan to provide both routine care and medical care of the eye should be contracted both with VSP and directly with Aetna Better Health of Ohio.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio covers vision services for all enrollees. Benefits included:

- Routine eye exams
- Eyeglasses or contact lenses when medically

necessary See the benefit grid for additional details.

Direct-Access Immunizations

Enrollees may receive influenza and pneumococcal vaccines from any network provider without a referral, and there is no cost to the enrollee if it is the only service provided at that visit.

Value Added Benefits

Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees:

SilverSneakers® is a valuable program that allows Aetna Better Health of Ohio members no-cost access to exercise equipment, group fitness classes, social events and more at participating gyms and fitness centers. Visit SilverSneakers.com to learn more or call Member Services at **1-855-364-0974 (TTY:711)**.

Our Medicare-Medicaid members can receive a no-cost Android smartphone through the government's Lifeline Program. This includes a monthly plan with data, talk, and unlimited texts as well as health tips and reminders by text, one-on-one texting with your healthcare team, and all calls with our Member Services department do not count towards your minutes. You also have the option to keep your current phone and choose a service-only monthly plan at no cost to you.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio offers a monthly benefit to our Medicare-Medicaid enrollees of \$50 for over the counter (OTC) medications

Some of the types of over-the-counter medications included in this program are:

- Pain relievers
- Digestion/Laxatives/Antacids
- Cough/Cold/Allergy
- Anti-Hemorrhoidal
- Anti-Fungal
- First Aid

- Dental
- Ear & Eye Care
- Vitamins

Dental

For enrollees over the age of 21, Aetna Better Health of Ohio offers a value-added benefit of an additional oral exam, cleaning, fluoride treatment, and x-ray. This allows enrollees over age 21 to receive these dental services twice per year instead of only once.

Out of Area Benefits

When enrollees are out of the area (example: on vacation), Aetna Better Health of Ohio covers emergencies only.

Interpretation Services

Telephone interpretive services are provided at no cost to enrollees or providers. Personal interpreters can also be arranged in advance. Sign language services are also available. These services can be arranged in advance by calling our Member Services Department at 1-855-364-0974.

Pharmacy

Some Medicare-Medicaid enrollees may have a copay for Part D drugs. The copay will depend on the level of extra help the enrollee is receiving. For enrollees who do have a copay, they will pay no more than:

- \$2.55 for Part D generic drugs
- \$6.35 for Part D brand name drugs.

Please visit our website for additional formulary information.

Cost Sharing

Our enrollees have no cost sharing as part of the MyCare Ohio plan. Providers are not allowed to balance bill, nor can they bill for the cost sharing (except any applicable Part D copays).

All Medicare-covered services must be medically necessary, and except for emergency or urgently needed care, or otherwise authorized by Aetna Better Health of Ohio, must be provided by a participating PCP or other qualified participating providers. Benefit limits apply.

Providers are required to administer covered services to enrollees in accordance with the terms of their Provider Agreement and enrollee's Evidence of Coverage (EOC).

The full array of benefits and supportive services under the MyCare Ohio plan include, Medicare (including inpatient, outpatient, hospice, durable medical equipment, nursing homes, home health, and pharmacy) and Medicaid (including behavioral health, long-term institutional and community-based long-term supports and services).

The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of the benefits. For more information, contact our Provider Services Department at 1-855-364-0974 'press *, then say "Provider Services".

Note: Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium, and/or co-payments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year.

Annual Notice of Change

Benefits are subject to change annually. Enrollees are provided with written notice regarding the annual changes by the date specified by CMS. The CMS Annual Election Period begins on October 15th each year for enrollees and ends on December 7th.

Providers can access our website on or around October 15th for information on the individual plan and benefits that will be available for the following calendar year.

Medicare Coverage Overview

- **Part A Hospital** Insurance pays for inpatient care, nursing home care, hospice, and home health care.
- **Part B** – Medical Insurance pays for doctor's services, and outpatient care such as lab tests, medical equipment, supplies, some preventive care and some prescription drugs.
- **Part C** – Medicare Advantage Plans (MA) combine Parts A and B health benefits through managed care organizations; most plans include Part D (MAPDplans).
- **Part D** – Medicare Prescription Drug Plan helps pay for prescription drugs, certain vaccines, and certain medical supplies (e.g. needles and syringes for insulin); Part D coverage is available as a standalone Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) or integrated with medical benefit coverage (MAPD).

Chapter 6 – Enrollee Rights & Responsibilities

Aetna Better Health of Ohio is always committed to treating enrollees with respect and dignity. Enrollee rights and responsibilities are shared with staff, providers, and enrollees each year.

Treating an enrollee with respect and dignity is good business for the provider's office and often can improve health outcomes. Your Provider Agreement with us requires compliance with enrollee rights and responsibilities, especially treating enrollees with respect and dignity. Understanding enrollees' rights and responsibilities is important because you can help enrollees to better understand their role in and improve their compliance with treatment plans.

It is our policy not to discriminate against enrollees based on race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis that is prohibited by law. Please review the list of enrollee rights and responsibilities below. Please see that your staff is aware of these requirements and the importance of treating enrollees with respect and dignity.

In the event that we are made aware of an issue with an enrollee not receiving the rights as identified above, we will initiate an investigation into the matter and report the findings to the Quality Management Oversight Committee (QMOC) and further action may be necessary.

In the event that we are made aware of an issue when the enrollee is not demonstrating the responsibilities as outlined above, we will make good faith efforts to address the issue with the enrollee; educate the enrollee on their responsibilities.

Enrollees have the following rights and responsibilities:

Enrollee Rights

Aetna Better Health of Ohio enrollees have the following rights:

- To receive understandable information about Aetna Better Health of Ohio, its services, its practitioners and providers and enrollee rights and responsibilities.
- To receive all services that Aetna Better Health of Ohio is required to provide pursuant to the terms of the three-way contract, provider agreement, and CMS requirements.
- To receive understandable information about covered benefits and services as well as any enrollee cost-sharing.

- To be treated with respect and recognition of their dignity and their right to privacy.
- To be ensured of confidential handling of information concerning their diagnoses, treatments, prognoses, and medical and social history.
- To be provided information about their health. Such information should also be made available to the individual legally authorized by the enrollee to have such information or the person to be notified in the event of an emergency when concern for an enrollee’s health makes it inadvisable to give him/her such information.
- To participate with practitioners in making decisions about their health care and be encouraged to involve caregivers or family enrollees in discussions and decision.
- To a candid discussion of appropriate or medically necessary treatment options for their conditions, regardless of cost or benefit coverage. This information will be presented in a manner appropriate to the enrollee’s condition, functional status, and language needs.
- To be assured of auditory and visual privacy during all health care examinations or treatment visits.
- To be free from any form of restraint or seclusion used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation.
- To request and receive a copy of their medical records, and to be able to request that their medical records be amended or corrected.
- To be afforded the opportunity to approve or refuse the release of information except when release is required by law.
- To be afforded the opportunity to refuse treatment or therapy. Enrollees who refuse treatment or therapy will be counseled relative to the consequences of their decision, and documentation will be entered into the medical record accordingly.
- To voice complaints or appeals about the organization or the care it provides.
- To be assured that all written enrollee information provided by Aetna Better Health of Ohio is available:
 - At no cost to the enrollee,
 - In the prevalent non-English languages of enrollees in Aetna Better Health of Ohio’s service area, and
 - In alternative formats and in an appropriate manner that takes into consideration the special needs of enrollees including but not limited to visually limited and limited reading proficiency (LRP) enrollees.
- To be assured that oral interpretation and oral translation services are available at no cost to enrollees.
- To be assured that the services of sign language assistance are available to hearing impaired enrollees.
- To be informed of specific student practitioner roles and the right to refuse student care.
- To refuse to participate in experimental research.

- To have advance directives explained to them, formulate advance directives and to file any complaints concerning noncompliance with advance directives with the Ohio Department of Health.
- To change PCPs no less often than monthly. Aetna Better Health of Ohio mails written confirmation to the enrollee of their new PCP selection prior to or on the effective date of the change.
- To reasonable accommodations for disabilities
- To be protected from discrimination including on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, veteran's status, medical condition (including physical and mental illness), claims experience, receipt of health care, medical history, genetic information, evidence of insurability, source of payment or disability.
- To appeal to or file directly with the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights any complaints of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability in the receipt of health services.
- To appeal to or file directly with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services of Bureau Civil Rights any complaints of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, veteran's status, ancestry, health status or need for health services in the receipt of health services.
- To be free to exercise their rights and to be assured that exercising their rights does not adversely affect the way Aetna Better Health of Ohio or its practitioners/providers, or Ohio Department of Medicaid treats the enrollee.
- To be assured that Aetna Better Health of Ohio must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and other laws regarding privacy and confidentiality.
- To choose his or her health professional to the extent possible and appropriate.
- To have access to emergency care when and where it is needed.
- To be assured that female enrollees have direct access to a woman's health specialist within the network for covered care necessary to provide women's routine and preventive health care services. This is in addition to the enrollee's designated PCP if the PCP is not a woman's health specialist.
- To be provided a second opinion from a qualified health care professional within Aetna Better Health of Ohio's panel. If such a qualified health care professional is not available within Aetna Better Health of Ohio's panel, Aetna Better Health of Ohio must arrange for a second opinion outside the network, at no cost to the enrollee.
- A right to make recommendations regarding Aetna Better Health of Ohio's enrollee rights and responsibilities policy.
- The right not to be balanced billed by any network provider for any reason for covered services, including cost sharing (except for Part D drugs).
- To receive information about a denial of health care payment, coverage of services or prescription drug coverage.
- To access an adequate network of primary and specialty providers who are capable of meeting the enrollee's needs with respect to physical access, communication and

scheduling needs and are subject to ongoing assessment of clinical quality including required reporting.

- To choose another MyCare Ohio health plan at any time including a Medicare plan outside of the MyCare Ohio program and have that choice be effective the first calendar day of the following month.
- Receive an in-person Comprehensive Assessment upon enrollment and to participate in the development and implementation of an Individualized Care Plan.
- Receive complete and accurate information on his or her health and Functional Status by the interdisciplinary team.
- To receive reasonable advance written notice of any transfer to another treatment setting and the justification for the transfer.
- To receive medical and non-medical care from a team that meets the enrollee's needs, in a manner that is sensitive to the enrollee's language and culture, and in an appropriate care setting, including the home and community.
- To receive timely information about plan changes. This includes the right to request and obtain the information in the Welcome Packet at least once per year, and the right to receive notice of any significant changes in the information provided in the Welcome Packet at least thirty 30 days prior to the intended effective date of the change.

Enrollee Responsibilities

Aetna Better Health enrollees, their families or guardians are responsible for:

- Knowing the name of the assigned PCP and/or Care Manager
- Familiarizing themselves about their coverage and the rules they must follow to get care
- Respecting the health care professionals providing service
- Sharing any concerns, questions or problems with the Aetna Better Health
- To supply information (to the extent possible) that Aetna Better Health and its practitioners and providers need in order to provide care
- To follow plans and instructions for care that they have agreed to with their practitioners
- To understand their health problems and participate in developing mutually agreed-upon treatment goals, to the degree possible
- Reporting changes such as; address, telephone number and/or assets, and other matters that could affect the enrollee's eligibility to the office where the enrollee applied for Medicare-Medicaid services
- Protecting their enrollee identification card and providing it each time they receive services
- Disclosing other insurance, they may have and/or applying for other benefits they may be eligible for
- Scheduling appointments during office hours, when possible

- Arriving for appointments on time
- Notifying the health care professionals if it is necessary to cancel an appointment
- Bringing immunization records to all appointments for children under eighteen (18) years of age

For questions or concerns, please contact our Provider Services Department at 1-855-364-0974.

Enrollee Rights under Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a national law that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. The nondiscrimination requirements of the law apply to organizations that receive financial assistance from any federal department or agency, including hospitals, nursing homes, mental health centers, and human service programs.

Section 504 prohibits organizations from excluding or denying individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to receive benefits and services. Qualified individuals with disabilities have the right to participate in, and have access to, program benefits and services. Under this law, individuals with disabilities are defined as persons with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. People who have a history of physical or mental impairment, or who are regarded as having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, are also covered. Major life activities include caring for one's self, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, working, performing manual tasks, and learning. Some examples of impairments that may substantially limit major life activities, even with the help of medication or aids/devices, are: AIDS, alcoholism, blindness or visual impairment, cancer, deafness or hearing impairment, diabetes, drug addiction, heart disease, and mental illness. In addition to meeting the above definition, for purposes of receiving services, qualified individuals with disabilities are persons who meet normal and essential eligibility requirements.

Providers treating enrollees in the Integrated Care Program may not, on the basis of disability:

- Deny qualified individuals the opportunity to participate in or benefit from federally funded programs, services, or other benefits
- Deny access to programs, services, benefits or opportunities to participate as a result of physical barriers

Chapter 7 – Eligibility and Enrollment

Aetna Better Health of Ohio arranges medically necessary covered services for individuals who are enrolled in the MyCare Ohio plan. This chapter describes eligibility categories, the role of the enrollment broker, and the enrollment and disenrollment processes.

Eligibility

Individuals who meet the following plan eligibility requirements may enroll:

- Entitled to benefits under Medicare Part A and enrolled Medicare Parts Part B and D, and receiving full Medicaid benefits
- Reside in a MyCare Ohio plan County
- Age 18 or older at the time of enrollment.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) determines eligibility for MyCare Ohio plan. If an individual loses eligibility for the MyCare Ohio plan, Aetna Better Health of Ohio is required to end their coverage under the Program.

Non-Eligible Populations

The following populations are not eligible for the MyCare Ohio plan:

- Individuals under the age of 18
- Individuals who are Medicare and Medicaid eligible and are on delayed Medicaid spend down
- Individuals enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid who have other third-party creditable health care coverage
- Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ID) and other Developmental Disabilities (DD) who are otherwise serviced through an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) 1915(c) HCBS waiver or an Intermediate Care Facility- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (ICF-IDD)
- Individuals enrolled in a Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
- Individuals participating in the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Independence at Home (IAH) demonstration

Enrollment Broker

Automated Health Systems (AHS) is the enrollment broker contracted with the ODM, which is responsible for processing all enrollment and disenrollment transactions. Automated Health Systems (AHS) will educate enrollees on all potential plan choices and support ongoing customer service related to outreach, education, and support for individuals eligible for the MyCare Ohio plan.

Enrollees who have questions about enrollment should be instructed to contact Automated Health Systems (AHS) and/or the Patient Ombudsman.

Enrollment Effective Dates

Enrollees become effective on the first day of the month following the initial receipt of the enrollee's request to enroll into the Aetna Better Health of Ohio MyCare Ohio plan, or the first day of the month the month in which they become eligible. For passive enrollment, enrollees are effective no sooner than sixty (60) days after the potential enrollee notification of the right to select a MyCare Ohio Plan from one of the health plans.

Automated Health Systems (AHS) is responsible for the enrollment of potential enrollees, including provision of health care plan choice education and enrollment by auto-assignment.

Enrollment Broker (Enrollments and Disenrollment's)

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) processes MyCare Ohio enrollee enrollment and disenrollment's through their enrollment broker, Automated Health Systems (AHS). Enrollees may disenroll with our MyCare Ohio plan on a month-to-month basis any time during the year; however, coverage for these individuals will remain active through the end of the month until disenrolled.

Enrollees who have questions about enrollment should be instructed to contact Automated Health Systems (AHS) and/or the Patient Ombudsman.

Welcome Packet

Welcome packets are issued to enrollees prior to the first day of the month in which the enrollee's enrollment starts. If there is more than one enrollee in one household, every enrollee will receive their own welcome packet.

At a minimum, the welcome packet contains the following:

- Welcome Letter
- Enrollee Identification Card
- Transition of Care form
- Enrollee Handbook/Evidence of Coverage (will also be mailed annually)
- Annual Notice of Change (after Aetna Better Health's first year offering the Plan)
- Summary of Benefits
- Multi-Language Insert
- HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

- “How to request a Provider and Pharmacy Directory and List of Covered Drugs (Formulary)” tear out card

We provide translated materials, interpretive services, and/or information available in alternative formats (i.e. braille, large print, CD etc.) as needed or requested by enrollees or potential enrollees.

PCP Changes

If an enrollee is dissatisfied with the auto-selection assignment, or wishes to change their PCP for any other reason, the enrollee may choose an alternative PCP at any time by calling our Member Services Department at **1-855-364-0974**. We will promptly grant the request and process the PCP change in a timely manner. Enrollees will receive a new ID card indicating the new PCP’s name. Enrollees cannot change PCPs more than once per month.

In cases where a PCP has been terminated for reasons other than cause, we will promptly inform enrollees assigned to that PCP in order to allow them to select another PCP prior to the PCP’s termination effective date. In cases where an enrollee fails to select a new PCP, the enrollee is reassigned to another compatible PCP prior to the PCP’s termination date, informing the enrollee of the change in writing.

ID Card

Enrollees should present their Aetna Better Health of Ohio ID card at the time of service. Providers should always confirm eligibility prior to rendering services.

The enrollee ID card contains the following information:

- Enrollee Name
- MMIS ID Number
- Health Plan ID Number
- PCP Name
- PCP Phone Number
- Claims address
- Emergency Contact Information for Enrollee
- Health Plan Name
- Aetna Better Health of Ohio Logo / MyCare Ohio Logo
- Aetna Better Health of Ohio Website
- RX Bin Number
- RX PCN Number
- RX Group Number

Sample ID Card

Front:

MyCareOhio
Connecting Medicare + Medicaid

Aetna Better Health® of Ohio, a MyCare Ohio Plan

Member Name LAST, FIRST
MMIS Member ID# 01234567891

PCP NAME, PCPFIRST
PCP Phone 1-123-456-9100

CMS - H7172 001





RxBIN: 610591
RxPCN: MEDDADV
RxGRP: RX8812

MEOHDIN2

1527-041 18B02 Sh: 0 Bin 1
 J015 Env [1,803] CSets 1 of 1



Back:

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J015 Env [1,803] CSets 1 of 1

In an emergency, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest emergency room (ER) or other appropriate setting. If you are not sure if you need to go to the ER, call your PCP or the 24-Hour Nurse Advice line.

Member Services:	1-855-364-0974 (TTY: 711)
Eligibility Verification:	1-855-364-0974
Behavioral Health Crisis:	1-855-364-0974 (TTY: 711)
Care Management:	1-855-364-0974 (TTY: 711)
24-hour Nurse Advice Line:	1-855-364-0974 (TTY: 711)
Pharmacy Help Desk:	1-855-364-0974
Website:	AetnaBetterHealth.com/Ohio

Send claims to:

Aetna Better Health of Ohio
Claims Department
PO Box 982966, El Paso, TX 79998-2966
(Electronic Claims: Payer ID 50023)

OHDIN2

Verifying Eligibility

Presentation of an Aetna Better Health of Ohio ID card is not a guarantee of eligibility. The provider is responsible for verifying an enrollee’s current enrollment status before

providing care. Please note that we will not reimburse for services provided to patients who are not enrolled with Aetna Better Health of Ohio. Providers can verify enrollee eligibility by calling our Provider Services Department at **1-855-364-0974**, or online through our Secure Web Portal at <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/portal>.

Chapter 8 – Quality Management

Overview

Our Quality Management (QM) Program is an ongoing, objective, and systematic process of monitoring, evaluating, and improving the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of care. Aetna Better Health of Ohio uses this approach to measure conformance with desired medical standards and develop activities designed to improve patient outcomes.

We perform QM through a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Program with the involvement of multiple organizational components and committees. The primary goal of our QM Program is to improve the health status of enrollees or maintain current health status when the enrollee's condition is not amenable to improvement.

Our QM Program is a continuous quality improvement process that includes comprehensive quality assessment and performance improvement activities. These activities continuously and proactively review our clinical and operational programs and processes to identify opportunities for continued improvement. Our continuous QM process enables us to:

- Assess current practices in both clinical and non-clinical areas.
- Identify opportunities for improvement.
- Select the most effective interventions.
- Evaluate and measure on an ongoing basis the success of implemented interventions, refining the interventions as necessary.

The use of data in the monitoring, measurement, and evaluation of quality and appropriateness of care and services is an integral component of our quality improvement process.

Our QM Program uses an integrated and collaborative approach, involving our senior management team, functional areas within the organization, and committees from the Board of Directors to the Member Advisory Committee. This structure allows enrollees and providers to offer input into our quality improvement activities. Our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) oversees the QM program. The CMO is supported in this effort by our QM Department and the Quality Management Oversight Committee (QMOC) and subcommittees.

The QMOC's primary purpose is to integrate quality management and performance improvement activities throughout the health plan and the provider network. The committee is designated to provide executive oversight of the QAPI program and make recommendations to the Board of Directors about our quality management and

performance improvement activities and to work to make sure the QAPI is integrated throughout the organization, and among departments, delegated organizations, and network providers. Major functions of the QMOC include:

- Confirm that quality activities are designed to improve the quality of care and services provided to enrollees.
- Review and evaluate the results of quality improvement activities.
- Review and approve studies, standards, clinical guidelines, trends in quality and utilization management indicators and satisfaction surveys.
- Advise and make recommendations to improve the health plan.
- Review and evaluate company-wide performance monitoring activities, including care management, customer service, credentialing, claims, grievance and appeals, prevention and wellness, Provider Services, and quality and utilization management.

Additional committees such as Service Improvement, Credentialing and Performance, Appeals/Grievance, and Quality Management and Utilization Management further support our QAPI Program. We encourage provider participation on key medical committees.

Providers may contact the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or inform their Provider Services Representative if they wish to participate.

Our QM staff develops and implements an annual work plan, which specifies projected QM activities. Based on the work plan, we conduct an annual QAPI Program evaluation, which assesses the impact and effectiveness of QM activities.

Our QM Department is an integral part of the health plan. The focus of our QM staff is to review and trend services and procedures for compliance with nationally recognized standards and recommend and promote improvements in the delivery of care and service to our enrollees. Our QM and Medical Management (MM) Departments maintain ongoing coordination and collaboration regarding quality initiatives, care management, and disease management activities involving the care of our enrollees.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio's QM activities include, but are not limited to, medical record reviews, site reviews, peer reviews, satisfaction surveys, performance improvement projects, and provider profiling. Utilizing these tools, Aetna Better Health of Ohio, in collaboration with providers, is able to monitor and reassess the quality of services provided to our enrollees. Providers are obligated to support and meet Aetna Better Health of Ohio's QAPI and Utilization Management program standards.

Note: Providers must also participate in the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and the Ohio Department of Medicaid's (ODM) quality improvement initiatives. Any information provided must be reliable and complete.

Identifying Opportunities for Improvement

We identify and evaluate opportunities for quality improvement and determine the appropriate intervention strategies through the systematic collection, analysis, and review of a broad range of external and internal data sources. The types of data Aetna Better Health of Ohio monitors to identify opportunities for quality improvements include:

- **Formal Feedback from External Stakeholder Groups:** Aetna Better Health of Ohio takes the lead on reaching out to external stakeholder groups by conducting one-on-one meetings, satisfaction surveys (CAHPS®), or focus groups with individuals, such as enrollees and families/caregivers, providers, and state and community agencies.
- **Findings from External Program Monitoring and Formal Reviews:** Externally initiated review activities, such as an annual external quality program assessments or issues identified through a state’s ongoing contract monitoring oversight process assists Aetna Better Health of Ohio in identifying specific program activities/processes that need improvement.
- **Internal Review of Individual Enrollee or Provider Issues:** In addition to receiving grievances and appeals from enrollees, providers, and other external sources, Aetna Better Health of Ohio proactively identifies potential quality of service issues for review through daily operations (i.e. enrollee services, prior authorization, and care management). Through established formalized review processes (i.e., grievances, appeals, assessment of the timeliness of our care management processes, access to provider care and covered services, and quality of care), Aetna Better Health of Ohio is able to identify specific opportunities for improving care delivered to individual enrollees.
- **Findings from Internal Program Assessments:** Aetna Better Health of Ohio conducts a number of formal assessments/reviews of program operations and providers that are used to identify opportunities for improvement. This includes but is not limited to medical record reviews of contracted providers, credentialing/re-credentialing of providers, oversight reviews of delegated activities, inter-rater reliability audits of medical review staff, annual quality management program evaluation, cultural competency assessment, and assessment of provider accessibility and availability.
- **Clinical and Non-Clinical Performance Measure Results:** Aetna Better Health of Ohio uses an array of clinical and non-clinical performance standards (e.g., call center response times, and claim payment lag times) to monitor and evaluate operational performance. Through frequent monitoring and trending of our performance measure results, Aetna Better Health of Ohio identifies opportunities for improvement in clinical and operational functions. These measures include:
 - Adherence to nationally recognized best practice guidelines and protocols

- Prior authorization (e.g., timeliness of decisions, notices of action, service/care plan appeals)
- Provider availability and accessibility, including:
 - Length of time to respond to requests for referrals
 - Timeliness of receipt of covered services
 - Timeliness of the implementation of enrollees’ care plans
 - Availability of 24/7 telephonic assistance to enrollees and caregivers receiving home care services
- **Data Trending and Pattern Analysis:** With our innovative information management systems and data mining tools, Aetna Better Health of Ohio makes extensive use of data trending and pattern analysis for the identification of opportunities for improvement in many levels of care.
- **Other Service Performance Monitoring Strategies:** Aetna Better Health of Ohio uses a myriad of monitoring processes to confirm effective delivery of services to all of our enrollees, such as provider and enrollee profiles, service utilization reports, and internal performance measures. Aspects of care that Aetna Better Health of Ohio monitors include, but are not limited to:
 - High-cost, high-volume, and problem prone aspects of the long-term care services our enrollees receive.
 - Effectiveness of the assessment and service planning process, including its effectiveness in assessing an enrollee’s informal supports and treatment goals, planned interventions, and the adequacy and appropriateness of service utilization.
 - Delivery of services enhancing enrollee safety and health outcomes and prevention of adverse consequences, such as fall prevention programs, skin integrity evaluations, and systematic monitoring of the quality and appropriateness of home services.

Potential Quality of Care (PQoC) Concerns

Aetna Better Health of Ohio has a process for identifying PQoC concerns related to our provider network including Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), researching and resolving these care concerns in an expeditious manner, and following up to make sure needed interventions are implemented. This may include referring the issue to peer review and other appropriate external entities. In addition, Aetna Better Health of Ohio tracks and trends PQoC cases and prepares trend reports that we organize according to provider, issue category, referral source, number of verified issues, and closure levels. Aetna Better Health of Ohio will use these trend reports to provide background information on providers for whom there have been previous complaints. These reports also identify significant trends that warrant review by the Aetna Credentialing and Performance Committee or identify the need for possible quality improvement initiatives.

Performance Improvement Projects (PIPs)

Performance improvement projects (PIPs), a key component of our QM Program, are designed to achieve and sustain a demonstrable improvement in the quality or appropriateness of services over time. Our PIPs follow CMS’s protocols. Aetna Better Health of Ohio participates in state-mandated PIPs and selects PIP topics that:

- Target improvement in areas that will address a broad spectrum of key aspects of enrollees’ care and services over time
- Address clinical or non-clinical topics
- Identify quality improvement opportunities through one of the identification processes described above
- Reflect Aetna Better Health of Ohio enrollment in terms of demographic characteristics, prevalence of disease and potential consequences (risks) of the disease

Our QM Department prepares PIP proposals that are reviewed and approved by our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and the Quality Management Oversight Committee (QMOC) prior to submission to the ODM for review and approval. The committee review process provides us with the opportunity to solicit advice and recommendations from other functional units within Aetna Better Health of Ohio.

The QM Department conducts ongoing evaluation of the study indicator measures throughout the length of the PIP to determine if the intervention strategies have been successful. If there has been no statistically significant improvement, or even a decline in performance, we immediately conduct additional analyses to identify why the interventions have not achieved the desired effect and whether additional or enhanced intervention strategies should be implemented to achieve the necessary outcomes. This cycle continues until we achieve real and sustained improvement.

Peer Review

Peer review activities are evaluated by the Credentialing and Performance Committee. This committee may take action if a quality issue is identified. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, development of a corrective action plan with time frames for improvement, evidence of education, counseling, development of policies and procedures, monitoring and trending of data, limitations, or discontinuation of the provider’s contract with the plan. The peer review process focuses on the issue identified but, if necessary, could extend to a review of utilization, medical necessity, cost, and/or health provider credentials, as well as other quality issues.

Although peer review activities are coordinated by the Quality Management Department, they may require the participation of Utilization and Care Management, Provider Services, or other departments. Aetna Better Health of Ohio may request external consultants with special expertise (e.g., in oral surgery, cardiology, oncology) to participate in peer review activities, if applicable.

The health plans peer review process adheres to Aetna Better Health of Ohio policies, is conducted under applicable state and federal laws, and is protected by the immunity and confidentiality provisions of those laws.

The right of appeal is available to providers whose participation in the Aetna Better Health of Ohio network has been limited or terminated for a reason based on the quality of the care or services provided. Appealable actions may include the restriction, reduction, suspension, or termination of a contract under specific circumstances.

Performance Measures

We collect and report clinical and administrative performance measure data to the ODM and CMS. The data enables Aetna Better Health of Ohio, the ODM and CMS to evaluate our adherence to practice guidelines, as applicable, and/or improvement in enrollee outcomes.

Satisfaction Surveys

We conduct enrollee and provider satisfaction surveys to gain feedback regarding enrollee and providers' experiences with quality of care, access to care, and service/operations. We use enrollee and provider satisfaction survey results to help identify and implement opportunities for improvement. Each survey is described below.

- **Enrollee Satisfaction Surveys**

Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems® (CAHPS) are a set of standardized surveys that assess patient satisfaction with the experience of care. Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) surveys are subsets of Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set® (HEDIS) reporting. Aetna Better Health of Ohio contracts with a National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) certified vendor to administer the survey according to HEDIS® survey protocols. The survey is based on randomly selected enrollees and summarizes satisfaction with the health care experience.

- **Provider Satisfaction Surveys**

We conduct an annual provider survey to assess satisfaction with our operational processes. Topics include claims processing, provider training and education, and Aetna Better Health of Ohio's response to inquiries.

External Quality Review (EQR)

External Quality Review (EQR) is a requirement under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, Section 1932(c), (2) [42 U.S.C. 1396u–2] for states to contract with an independent external review body to perform an annual review of the quality of services furnished under state contracts with managed care organizations, including the evaluation of quality outcomes, timeliness, and access to services. External Quality Review (EQR) refers to the analysis and evaluation of aggregated information on timeliness, access, and quality of health care services furnished to enrollees. The results of the EQR are made available, upon request, to specified groups and to interested stakeholders.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio cooperates fully with external clinical record reviews assessing our network's quality of services, access to services, and timeliness of services, as well as any other studies determined necessary by the ODM and CMS. Aetna Better Health of Ohio assists in the identification and collection of any data or records to be reviewed by the independent evaluation team. We also provide complete records to the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) in the time frame allowed by the EQRO. Aetna Better Health of Ohio's contracted providers are required to provide any records that the EQRO may need for its review.

The results of the EQR are shared with providers and incorporated into our overall QM and medical management programs as part of our continuous quality improvement process.

Provider Profiles

In an effort to promote the provision of quality care, we profile providers who meet the minimum threshold of enrollees in their practices, as well as the minimum threshold of enrollees for specific profiling measures. Individual providers and practices are profiled for multiple measures and results are compared with colleagues in their specialty. In addition, we profile providers to assess adherence to evidence-based guidelines for their patients who have chronic conditions.

The Provider Profiling Program is designed to share standardized utilization data with physicians in an effort to improve clinical outcomes. Our profiling program is intended to support clinical decision-making and patient engagement as providers often have little access to information about how they are managing their enrollees or about how practice patterns compare to those of their peers. Additional goals of the Provider

Profiling Program are to improve the provider- patient relationship to reduce unwanted variation in care and improve efficacy of patient care.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio includes several measures in the provider profile, which include, but are not limited to:

- Frequency of individual patient visits to the PCP.
- HEDIS-type screening tests and evidence-based therapies (i.e. appropriate asthma management linked with correct use of inhaled steroids).
- Use of medications.
- ER utilization and inpatient service utilization.
- Referrals to specialists and out-of-network providers.

We distribute profile reports to providers so they can evaluate:

- Potential gaps in care and opportunities for improvement.
- Information indicating performance for individual cases or specific disease conditions for their patient population.
- A snapshot of their overall practice performance relative to evidence-based quality metrics.

Our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) visits individual network providers to interpret profile results, review quality data, and discuss any new medical guidelines. Our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) investigates potential utilization or quality of care issues that may be identified through profiles. Aetna Better Health of Ohio's medical leadership is committed to collaborating with providers to find ways to improve patient care.

Clinical Practice Guidelines

The evidenced-based clinical practice guidelines used by Aetna Better Health of Ohio represent best practices and are based on national standards, reasonable medical evidence, and expert consensus. Prior to being recommended for use, the guidelines are reviewed and approved by the health plan Chief Medical Officer, applicable medical committees and, if necessary, external consultants. Clinical practice guidelines are reviewed at least every two years, or as often as new information is available.

Clinical guidelines are made available to providers on our website; providers are informed of the availability of new guidelines and updates in written provider communication. Providers may request a copy of a guideline at any time by contacting their Provider Services Department.

Chapter 9 – Medical Management

Aetna Better Health of Ohio MyCare Ohio plan focuses on relationship building; promoting choice among enrollees and caregivers; and assisting in the coordination of the full continuum of physical, behavioral, and social care and services. The objective is to make certain that enrollees receive care in the most integrated, least-restrictive community setting compatible with optimal functioning and personal preferences.

Identifying Enrollees Needs

A licensed and experienced clinical professional will conduct an initial assessment upon enrollment and re-assessments within state required timeframes and if there is a change in the enrollee's condition or status.

The enrollee will be assigned to a Care Manager who will do a comprehensive assessment to gather enrollee information, concerns, and needs to initiate the member centered care planning process through collaboration with the enrollee, caregiver, and members of the Inter-disciplinary Care Team (ICT). The Care Manager will also consult with the enrollee's Primary Care Provider (PCP), specialist providers, and other relevant professionals involved in the enrollee's care. Aetna Better Health of Ohio's assessment process is holistic, focusing on the individual's medical, psychological, cultural, financial, and environmental circumstances and long-term care needs.

Inter-Disciplinary Care Team (ICT)

The Inter-disciplinary Care Team (ICT) is a team of individuals that will provide person-centered care coordination and care management to enrollees. The ICT is led by the assigned enrollee Care Manager and every enrollee will have an ICT of their choice. At any time, the enrollee may decline care management and the ICT process, unless they are enrolled in the LTSS program, where care management is a requirement. Each ICT will be comprised of the enrollee and/or the enrollee's authorized representative/designee, relevant health plan professionals, the PCP, behavioral health professional, the enrollee's home care aide, and other providers either as requested by the enrollee or his/her representative/designee. Additional ICT members may be included as recommended by the Care Manager or PCP and approved by the enrollee and/or his/her representative/designee. The Inter-disciplinary Care Team (ICT) will review the enrollee's care plan and service plan, coverage determinations and care coordination. The ICT will meet initially within fifteen (15) days of the initial assessment to develop the person-centered care plan and regularly throughout the enrollee's care as care needs change.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio will be responsible for coordinating enrollees' care throughout the continuum of covered and non-covered services. The Plan will employ a number of strategies to accomplish this objective, including:

- **Communicating with Enrollees and their Informal Support Systems:** The Care Manager will regularly communicate with enrollees and enrollees' families/caregivers telephonically, online, and during in-person visits to discuss an array of issues relating to the enrollee's health and well-being, including physician visits, medications, therapies, nutrition, enrollee safety, etc. As needed, or per the request of anyone on the ICT, including the enrollee, the Care Manager will make certain referrals, schedule appointments, arrange transportation, and coordinate any other services needed for the enrollee. This process will include follow-up discussions with the enrollee to make certain the services put in place are appropriate and meet not only their needs, but the care planning requirements set forth by the enrollee's providers.
- **Communicating with Providers:** The Care Manager will regularly confer with treating providers and other professionals involved in the delivery of covered and non-covered services to support their prescribed course of treatment and make certain that authorized services and supports are consistent with the enrollee's health-related needs and preferences and follow the person centered care and service plan approved by the ICT.

Documenting & Communicating Meetings

The participants of each ICT will communicate in-person or via teleconference. At every step-in care management, the enrollee is a partner in developing goals to improve health status and identifying root causes of poor health outcomes and barriers to care. If the enrollee is unable to be an active participant in this process, we will work with their identified family/representative to make sure they are included in the ICT process.

The care management and ICT activities/meetings will be documented in the enrollee's care management plan located in the Aetna Better Health of Ohio business application system. The plan will be based on the assessed needs, and articulated preferences of the enrollee. If needed, we will transition enrollees to new providers once the care plan is completed

For care management services, please call our toll-free line to be connected to a Care Manager.

Chapter 10 – Utilization Management

Primary Care Providers (PCPs), assigned Care Managers, enrollees of the Inter-disciplinary Care Management Team (ICMTs), enrollees or treating practitioner and or providers are responsible for initiating and coordinating an enrollee's request for authorization. However, specialists and other practitioners, and/or providers, may need to contact the Aetna Better Health of Ohio's Prior Authorization Department directly to obtain or confirm a prior authorization.

The requesting providers is responsible for complying with our prior authorization requirements, policies, and request procedures, and for obtaining an authorization number to facilitate reimbursement of claims. We will not prohibit, or otherwise restrict, practitioner and providers from:

- Acting within the lawful scope of practice
- From advising or advocating on behalf of an individual who is a patient and enrollee of the Aetna Better Health of Ohio
- The patient's health status, medical care, or treatment options (including any alternative treatments that may be self-administered), including the provision of sufficient information to provide an opportunity for the patient to decide among all relevant treatment options; the risks, benefits, and consequences of treatment, or non-treatment
- The opportunity for the individual to refuse treatment
- To express preferences about future treatment decisions.

UM decision making is based on appropriateness of care and service and existence of coverage. Aetna does not reward practitioners or other individuals for issuing denials of coverage. Financial incentives for UM decision makers do not encourage decisions that result in underutilization.

For those services requiring pre-service authorization, participating and nonparticipating providers must obtain pre-service authorization from us before providing clinical services, procedures, non-emergency or elective hospitalizations which require prior authorization. Noncompliance with pre-service authorization policies and procedures may result in denial or delay of reimbursement. A list of services that require prior authorization can be found on our website at www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio. Unauthorized services will not be reimbursed, and authorization is not a guarantee of payment. All out-of-network services require authorization (see below for exceptions).

Emergency Services

There is no requirement to inform or contact Aetna Better Health of Ohio prior to the provision of emergency care, including emergency treatment or emergency admission.

Notification to Aetna Better Health of Ohio after an emergent admission is encouraged for the purpose of appropriate coordination of care and discharge planning. Our Prior Authorization Department or Concurrent Review Clinicians will document the notification in the enrollee's record.

Services Requiring Authorization

Primary care providers (PCP), enrollees, or treating practitioner/providers must request authorization for certain medically necessary services.

A current list of services which require prior authorization can be found online at www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio.

Unauthorized services will not be reimbursed, and authorization is not a guarantee of payment.

Exceptions to Prior Authorizations:

- Service authorization for emergency services including behavioral health care; urgent care; crisis stabilization, including mental health; or post-stabilization services whether provided by an in-network or out-of-network practitioner/provider
- Access to family planning services
- Preventative services
- Well-woman services
- Communicable disease services, including STI and HIV testing
- Renal dialysis services

How to request Prior Authorizations

A prior authorization request may be submitted by:

- Network providers can submit the request through the 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week Secure Provider Web Portal located on our website, or
- Fax the request form to 1-855-734-9389 (form is available on our website). Please use a cover sheet with the practice's correct phone and fax numbers to safeguard the protected health information and facilitate processing or call us directly at 1-855-364-0974.
- For non-participating providers, please call us at 1-855-364-0974 or fax the request form to 1-855-734-9389 (form is available on our website).

A service authorization request for medical necessity must include the following:

- Name, date of birth, sex, and identification number of the enrollee
- PCP or treating practitioner
- Name, address, phone and fax number and signature, if applicable, of the referring practitioner or provider

- Name, address, phone and fax number of the consulting practitioner or provider
- Problem/diagnosis, including the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) code
- Reason for the service request
- Presentation of supporting objective clinical information, such as clinical notes, laboratory and imaging studies, and treatment dates, as applicable for the request. Aetna Better Health of Ohio strongly encourages the inclusion of current applicable codes in any service requests for medical necessity. Applicable codes may include the following:
 - Current Procedural Terminology (CPT),
 - International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10),
 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes
 - National Drug Code (NDC)

All clinical information must be submitted with the original request. Medical management and behavioral health medical necessity criteria and practice guidelines are disseminated to all affected practitioners and or providers upon request. To request criteria, call 1-855-364-0974.

Timeliness of Decisions and Notifications

We make service authorization decisions and notify providers and applicable enrollees in a timely manner. We adhere to the following decision/notification time standards. Aetna Better Health of Ohio records all telephonic contacts or attempted telephonic contacts to inform enrollees and providers of approvals and denials of service and requests for extensions of decision timelines in our electronic business system. Departments that handle pre-service authorizations must meet the timeliness standards appropriate to the required services and as the enrollee's condition requires but no more than the following:

Decision	Decision/notification timeframe	Notification to	Notification method
Urgent pre-service approval	Within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider	Oral or Electronic/Written
Urgent Part B Drug Approval	Within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Oral and Written
Urgent pre-service denial	Within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Oral or Electronic/Written
Urgent Part B Drug Denial	Within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Oral and Written
Non-urgent pre-service approval	Within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Electronic/Written
Non-urgent Part B Drug Approval	Within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Electronic/Written
Non-urgent pre-service denial	Within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Electronic/Written
Non-urgent Part B Drug Denial	Within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Electronic/Written
Urgent concurrent approval	Within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Oral and Written
Urgent concurrent denial	Within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Oral and Written
Non-urgent concurrent approval	Within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Electronic/Written

Non-urgent concurrent denial	Within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of request	Practitioner/ Provider and Enrollee	Electronic/Written
Post-service approval	Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the request.	Practitioner/Provider and Enrollee	Electronic/Written
Post-service denial	Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the request.	Practitioner/Provider Enrollee	Electronic/Written

Requesting a Peer-to-Peer

If the provider wishes to have a peer-to-peer with the physician at Aetna Better Health of Ohio, that can be requested. The provider/facility will be given a timeframe that they can complete the peer-to-peer discussion in a notification from Utilization Management. The peer-to-peer can be requested by calling 959-299-7046. The intake coordinator will schedule a 30-minute block of time where the Aetna Medical Director will call the number provided and a clinical discussion will take place.

Out-of-Network Providers

We will communicate the approval or denial to the out-of-network provider within the appropriate timeframes based on the type of request

Occasionally, an enrollee may be referred to an out-of-network provider because of special needs and the qualifications of the out-of-network provider. Our Prior Authorization Department makes such decisions on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Aetna Better Health of Ohio's Chief Medical Officer (CMO).

Referrals

We do not require referrals from PCPs or treating practitioner/providers.

Pharmacy Prior Authorization – Pharmacy

Aetna Better Health of Ohio will process coverage determinations and exception requests in accordance with Medicare Part D regulations and/or Medicaid regulations. Requests will be handled through the prior authorization review process. The prior authorization staff will adhere to approved criteria. The Aetna Better Health of Ohio Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee establishes clinical guidelines, and other professionally recognized standards in reviewing each case, rendering a decision based on established protocols and guidelines.

Providers can submit prior authorization requests by phone, fax, or through the Secure

Web Portal. Providers will be required to submit pertinent medical/drug history, prior treatment history, and any other necessary supporting clinical information with the request.

Coverage determination requests will be determined seventy-two (72) hours after receipt of complete information from the provider for Standard determinations. Expedited reviews will be determined within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of complete information from the provider. Conditions meeting expedited review include an imminent or serious threat to the health of the Enrollee, including, but not limited to, severe pain, potential loss of life, limb, or major bodily function. Determination notices will be faxed to the provider's office once the decision is made and a letter will be mailed to the enrollee.

To submit a coverage determination or exception request, complete the Coverage Determination form and fax to 1-855-365-8108 or call **1-855-364-0974**.

Concurrent Review Overview

We conduct concurrent utilization management on each enrollee admitted to an inpatient facility, including, skilled nursing facilities and freestanding specialty hospitals. Concurrent review activities include both admission certification and continued stay review. The content of the enrollee's medical record is used to evaluate the medical necessity for the admission. The appropriateness of the level of care is determined utilizing the appropriate criteria based on the Aetna Better Health of Ohio medical necessity criteria hierarchy.

Initial admission medical necessity review is conducted within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving notification.

Continued stay reviews are conducted by our Utilization Management Clinical staff. Providers will be notified of approval or denial of continued stay.

Discharge Planning Coordination

Effective and timely discharge planning and coordination of care are key factors in the appropriate utilization of services and prevention of readmissions. Hospital staff and the attending physician are responsible for developing a discharge plan for the enrollee. The enrollee and their family should be involved when implementing the plan.

Our Concurrent Review Clinical staff works with the hospital discharge team and attending physicians to make certain that cost-effective and quality services are provided at the appropriate level of care. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Assuring early discharge planning.
- Facilitating or attending discharge planning meetings for enrollees with complex

and/or multiple discharge needs.

- Providing hospital staff and attending physician with names of network providers (i.e., home health agencies, DME/medical supply companies, other outpatient providers).
- Informing hospital staff and attending physician of covered benefits as indicated

Chapter 11 – Behavioral Health

Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services

In order to meet the behavioral health needs of our enrollees, Aetna Better Health of Ohio will provide a continuum of services to enrollees at risk of or suffering from mental, addictive, or other behavioral disorders. We are an experienced behavioral health care organization and have contracted with behavioral health providers who are experienced in providing behavioral health services to the Ohio population.

Availability

Mental Health/Substance Abuse (MH/SA) providers must be accessible to enrollees, including telephone access, 24-hours-a-day, 7 days per week in order to advise enrollees requiring urgent or emergency services. If the MH/SA provider is unavailable after hours or due to vacation, illness, or leave of absence, appropriate coverage with other participating providers must be arranged. Mental Health/Substance Abuse (MH/SA) providers are required to meet our contractual standards for urgent and routine behavioral health appointments. For a complete list, please see Chapter 4 of this Manual.

Referral Process for Enrollees Needing Mental Health/Substance Abuse Assistance

Enrollees will be able to self-refer to any participating MH/SA provider with our network without a referral from their Primary Care Provider (PCP).

Primary Care Provider Referral

We endorse early identification of mental health issues so that timely intervention, including treatment and patient education, can occur. To that end, providers are expected to:

- Screen, evaluate, treat and/or refer (as medically appropriate), any behavioral health problem/disorder
- Treat mental health and/or substance abuse disorders within the PCP's scope of practice
- Inform enrollees how and where to obtain behavioral health services
- Understand that enrollees may self-refer to an Aetna Better Health of Ohio behavioral health care provider without a referral from the enrollee's PCP.

Coordination of Mental Health and Physical Health Services

We coordinate physical and mental health care services for enrollees through our Interdisciplinary Care Management Team (ICMT) that is led by each enrollee’s assigned Care Manager. Coordination and care and services includes screening, evaluations, evidence-based treatment and/or referrals for physical health, behavioral health or substance use disorder, dual or multiple diagnoses, mental retardation and /or developmental disabilities. With the enrollee’s permission, our Care Management Staff can facilitate coordination of care management related to substance abuse screening, evaluation, and treatment.

Enrollees seen in the primary care setting may present with a behavioral health condition, which the PCP must be prepared to recognize. Primary Care Providers (PCPs) are encouraged to use behavioral health screening tools, treat behavioral health issues that are within their scope of practice and refer enrollees to behavioral health providers when appropriate. Enrollees seen by behavioral health providers must be screened for co-existing medical issues. Behavioral health providers must refer enrollees with known or suspected and untreated physical health problems or disorders to their PCP for examination and treatment, with the enrollee’s consent. Behavioral health providers may also provide physical health care services if they are licensed to do so. Mental Health/Substance Abuse (MH/SA) providers are asked to communicate any concerns regarding the enrollee’s medical condition to the PCP, with the enrollee’s consent if required, and work collaboratively on a plan of care.

Medical Records Standards

Medical records must reflect all aspects of patient care, including ancillary services. Participating providers and other health care professionals must agree to maintain medical records in a current, detailed, organized, and comprehensive manner in accordance with customary medical practice, applicable laws, and accreditation standards. Medical records must reflect all aspects of patient care, including ancillary services. Detailed information on Medical Records Standards can be found in Chapter 4 of this manual.

Specific Screening Tools

Whenever a PCP is concerned about an enrollee who may have a Mental Health/Substance Abuse problem, it can be very helpful to have designated screening tools to help the PCP decide whether to take further action. This level of concern might be triggered by the PCP’s clinical judgment and/or by responses on the “Well-Being Tool for Adolescents & Adults: Patient Problem Questionnaire”. We strongly recommend the PCP use two screening tools, one for mental illness, and one for substance use disorders, when additional screening is indicated. We recognize a high proportion of enrollees with either disorder may have a co-occurring Mental Health or Substance Use disorder, which would require integrated dual diagnosis treatment to achieve optimal clinical outcomes. Aetna Better Health of Ohio uses

the following standard screening tools to facilitate the identification of people with potential Mental Health/Substance Abuse conditions:

K-6 - The K-6 is a brief general screening instrument that is used to identify adults who are likely to have a serious mental illness. The tool is not diagnosis specific and a person with a positive result on the K-6 requires a clinical assessment to make a definitive diagnosis. The K-6 is now included in the core of the National Health Interview Survey as well as in the annual National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. A person with a positive result on the K-6 should be screened for a substance use disorder using the UNCOPE since these disorders frequently occur together, and people with co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders require treatment for both types of disorders.

UNCOPE- The UNCOPE is a brief general screening instrument that identifies adults who are likely to have a Substance Abuse disorder. The UNCOPE consists of six questions found in existing instruments and assorted research reports. It is not diagnosis specific. A person with a positive result on the UNCOPE requires a clinical assessment to make a definitive diagnosis. In addition, a person with a positive result on the UNCOPE should be screened for a serious mental illness using the K-6 since these disorders frequently occur together.

Behavioral Health Redesign

Effective 01/01/2018, the State of Ohio’s Behavioral Health Redesign initiative will provide new behavioral health services, as well as modernize the procedure code set for behavioral health services.

For a comprehensive and updated list of code rates and authorization requirements per code, please visit bh.medicaid.ohio.gov/manuals. The State of Ohio requires Aetna Better Health of Ohio to follow the Medicaid Fee Schedule through 12/31/18 at 100% of the Medicaid Fee Table Rates.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio follows the State of Ohio Prior Authorization requirements for a period of one year starting on 01/01/2018.

Services

The following chart is an overview of behavioral health services that Aetna Better Health of Ohio standardly covers, or as a part of Behavioral Health Redesign.

Transition of Care Requirements for MyCare Ohio Members Receiving Behavioral Health Services. Aetna Better Health is required to cover behavioral health services provided by a Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) to its members as directed by ODM, including the following:

- Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) behavioral health coverage policies, except Aetna Better Health may implement less restrictive policies than FFS.
- Medicaid FFS payment rates as a floor for behavioral health services when the MCOP provider contracts are based on FFS rates. This does not apply to Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) Laboratories.

Outpatient Behavioral Health Services
Evaluation and Management
Psych Diagnostic Evaluation
Individual and Group Psychotherapy
Psych/Dev/Neuro Testing
Crisis Intervention
Alcohol/Substance Abuse Screening
Services at Community Mental Health Centers
Assertive Community Treatment (prior to initiation of service)
Intensive Home-Based Treatment (prior to initiation of service)
Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation (once annual limit is reached)
Psychological Testing (once annual limit is reached)
SBIRT (once annual limit is reached)
Psychosocial Rehabilitation
Therapeutic Behavioral Services
Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment
Psychotherapy/Mental Health Counseling Services
TBS Group Services
MH RN/LPN Services
Crisis Intervention Services
MH Peer Recovery Support (SRSP enrollees only)
IPS-Supported Employment Services (SRSP enrollees only)
Respite Services
100 hours of respite care per calendar year for members under 21 years of age
Behavioral Health Services Provided by Outpatient Hospitals
Evaluation and Management
Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation
Individual and Group Psychotherapy
Psych/Dev/Neuro Testing
Crisis Intervention

Alcohol/Substance Abuse Screening
SUD Intensive Outpatient, Partial Hospitalization, and Residential Treatment Services
TBS Group Services
Case Management
Community Psychiatric Support Treatment (CPST)
Alcohol and Drug Testing
LPN and RN Services
Substance Use Disorder Services - Community Mental Health Centers
SUD Assessment
SUD Individual Peer Recovery Support
SUD Group Peer Recovery Support
Individual Counseling
Group Counseling
SUD Case Management
Urine Drug Screening – collection, handling and point of service testing
Nursing Services – Individual
Nursing Services – Group
Group Counseling IOP Level of Care
Group Counseling PH Level of Care
Withdrawal Management Hourly ASAM 2 WM
Withdrawal Management Per Diem ASAM 2 WM
Substance Use Disorder – Residential Treatment
Withdrawal Management Per Diem ASAM 2 WM
Clinically Managed Low-Intensity Residential Treatment ASAM 3.1
Clinically Managed Withdrawal Management ASAM 3.2 WM
Clinically Managed Population-Specific High Intensity Residential Treatment ASAM 3.3 (Adults)
Clinically Managed High Intensity Residential Treatment ASAM 3.5
Medically Monitored Intensive Inpatient Treatment (Adults) and Medically Monitored High-Intensity Inpatient Services (Adolescent) ASAM 3.7
Medically Monitored Inpatient Withdrawal Management ASAM 3.7 WM

For pharmacy, dental and vision services please reference specific MCP requirements located on their websites.

Clinical information can be submitted as indicated below. If urgent or time-sensitive, please indicate at time of request.

Website Information	Phone
www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio	855-364-0974
www.bchpohio.com	800-224-1991
www.caresource.com	800-488-0134
www.molinahealthcare.com	800-642-4168
www.uhccommunityplan.com	800-366-7304

Chapter 12 – Pharmacy Management

Overview

Prescription drugs may be prescribed by any authorized prescriber, such as a Primary Care Provider (PCP), specialist, attending physician, dentist, etc. Prescriptions should be written to allow generic substitution whenever possible and signatures on prescriptions must be legible in order for the prescription to be dispensed. The formulary identifies all of the prescription and over the counter drugs covered by the Aetna Better Health of Ohio MyCare Ohio plan. The formulary drug list has been approved by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and/or the state and reviewed by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T Committee) to make certain that they are clinically appropriate to meet the therapeutic needs of our enrollees in a cost effective manner.

All formulary utilization management restrictions are approved by CMS and the P&T Committee.

Updating the Formulary

Our formulary is continuously reviewed by the P&T Committee and prescription drugs are added or removed based on objective, clinical, and scientific data and market changes. All updates to the formulary must be approved by CMS and/or the state and adhere to all mandated guidance on changes. Considerations include safety, efficacy, side effect profile, and cost and benefit comparisons to alternative agents, if available.

Key considerations:

- Therapeutic advantages outweigh cost considerations in all decisions to change drugs listed in the formulary. Market share shifts, price increases, generic availability, and varied dosage regimens may affect the actual cost of therapy.
- The formulary must adhere to CMS and state requirements.
- Products are not added to the formulary if there are less expensive, similar products on the formulary unless the new product provides superior outcomes or is mandated by CMS or the state.
- When a drug is added to the formulary, other drugs in the same category maybe removed.

Quantity Limits

We also limit coverage on the quantity of certain drugs. Quantity limits are established using medical guidelines and FDA-approved recommendations from drug manufacturers. The quantity limits include the following:

- Dose efficiency edits: limits coverage of prescriptions to one dose per day for drugs that are approved for once-daily dosing.
- Maximum daily dose: a message is sent to the pharmacy if a prescription is less than the minimum, or higher than the maximum, allowed dose.
- Quantity limits over time: limits coverage of prescriptions to a specific number of units in a defined amount of time.

Step Therapy

Some members may have a plan that includes step therapy. With step therapy, certain drugs are not covered unless members try one or more preferred alternatives first. Step therapy is based on:

- Current medical findings
- U.S. Department of Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved manufacturer labeling information
- FDA guidelines
- Cost and manufacturer rebate arrangements

If it is medically necessary, a member can get coverage of a step therapy drug without trying a preferred alternative first. In this case, a physician, patient or a person appointed to manage the patient's care must request coverage for a step therapy drug as a medical exception. The drugs requiring step therapy are subject to change.

Notification of Formulary Updates

We must follow CMS and state policy regarding formulary changes. Our Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee may add drugs to the formulary or delete utilization management requirements at any time during the year. Most changes in drug coverage happen on January 1, but we may add or remove drugs on the Drug List during the year, move them to different cost-sharing tiers, or add new restrictions

The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) limits non-maintenance formulary changes and must be approved by CMS.

We will provide notice to affected enrollees at least thirty (30) days prior to removing a covered drug from the formulary or provide the enrollee with a 30-day supply of the drug. If the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) deems a drug unsafe or it is removed from the market by its manufacturer, we will provide a retrospective notice as soon as possible. A list of formulary changes is maintained on our website.

Federal Part D regulations require Aetna Better Health of Ohio to have a formulary that contains at least two Part D prescription drugs in each approved category, and all drugs in the six special classes listed below:

- Antidepressants
- Antipsychotic
- Anticonvulsants
- Antiretroviral
- Antineoplastic
- Immunosuppressant

Both generic and brand name drugs are covered, but some drugs are statutorily excluded from Part D coverage or are excluded for certain indications. Excluded drugs include, but are not limited to:

- Drugs for anorexia, weight loss or weight gain
- Fertility drugs
- Erectile Dysfunction drugs
- Drugs for cosmetic purposes or hair growth
- Drugs for symptomatic relief of cough and cold (exceptions may apply) *
- Prescription vitamins and mineral products (except pre-natal vitamins and fluoride preparations) *
- Electrolytes/Replenishers
- Non-prescription drugs (exceptions may apply) *
- Drugs covered under Medicare Part A or Part B (exceptions may apply)

*This class of drugs may be covered under the Medicaid benefit

Pharmacy Transition of Care Process

MyCare Ohio enrollees (within their first ninety (90) days of eligibility with the plan and/or for the first ninety (90) days of the calendar year) taking prescription drugs that are not on the formulary, or formulary drugs that are subject to certain restrictions, such as prior authorization or step therapy, will receive a temporary transitional fill of up to a thirty (30) day supply of a non-formulary drug, or a formulary drug requiring prior authorization at a retail pharmacy. Enrollees and their prescribing physician will receive a letter instructing them to consult with their prescribing physician to decide if they should switch to an

equivalent drug that is on the formulary or to request a formulary exception in order to get coverage for the drug.

We will not pay for additional fills for the drug(s), unless the prescriber submits a request for a coverage determination or formulary exception, and we approve. If a formulary exception is approved, the approval will be valid through the remainder of the calendar year, unless prescribed for a lesser period.

LTC/ Nursing Facility

If a new enrollee is a resident of a Long-Term Care (LTC) facility, we will cover multiple fills of a temporary transitional fill of up to at least a thirty-one(31) day supply consistent with the dispensing increment (unless the enrollee presents with a prescription written for less), with refills provided if needed during within their first ninety (90) days of eligibility with the plan and/or during the first ninety (90) days of the calendar year. We will also cover an additional thirty-one (31) day emergency supply (unless the prescription is for fewer days) for an enrollee past the first ninety (90) days while we process a requested coverage determination.

If the enrollee has unplanned level of care changes, (e.g., discharged from a hospital to a home, or ending a stay at a long term care facility and returning home), we will provide an emergency thirty-one (31) day supply of a currently prescribed drug to transition the enrollee to their new level of care setting. The enrollee and the enrollee's physician will receive a letter notifying them that they will need to transition to a prescription drug on our formulary or request a coverage determination.

Please note that transition policy applies only to prescriptions filled at a network pharmacy.

Part D Pharmacy Co-Payments

Enrollee co-payments for covered prescription products will be \$0.

Chapter 13 - Enrollee Coverage Determinations, Exceptions, Appeals, Grievance for Part D Prescription Drugs

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage Determinations

Prescription drug coverage is included in the Aetna Better Health of Ohio MyCare Ohio plan. CVS Caremark is the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) that Aetna Better Health of Ohio has contracted with to administer the MyCare Ohio prescription drug benefit. Aetna Better Health of Ohio will review, and process Medicare Part D Coverage Determinations and Exception requests initiated by our enrollees, their authorized representative and/or their prescribing provider.

While typically prescribing providers submit requests to us to make a coverage determination, enrollees have the right to request a coverage determination concerning a prescription drug they believe they are entitled to receive under their plan, including:

- Basic prescription drug coverage
- The amount, if any, that the enrollee is required to pay for a drug

We will process coverage determinations under the standard timeframe of seventy-two (72) hours of receipt, unless the prescriber has indicated that the enrollee would be harmed if we apply the standard timeframe. In these cases, we will process the review under the expedited timeframe of twenty-four (24) hours, or as fast as the enrollee's health condition requires. If we fail to process the request within the required timeframe, we will submit the request to the Qualified Independent Contractor (QIC), Maximus Federal Services, within twenty-four (24) hours. Should this occur, we will notify both the enrollee, and the prescribing provider, that Maximus Federal Services will conduct the review. For all other redetermination upholds (denial of coverage), the enrollee or their representative must request a QIC review within sixty (60) days of the notification of denial from the health plan.

An enrollee, their authorized representative, and/or their prescribing physicians may submit a request directly to us orally or in writing to make a coverage determination for a formulary exception. Written requests may be on the Pharmacy Coverage Determination Request Form. The form is in this Manual and on our website. The request for a coverage determination formulary exception must be filed directly with us. If an enrollee or their authorized representative submits an exception request it must include the prescribing provider's supporting statement before this request can be reviewed.

A Pharmacy Coverage Determination Request Form is located on our website for your convenience. Prescribing physicians may initiate a request by calling our Pharmacy Prior

Authorization Department at **1-855-364-0974**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or fax your request to **1-855-365-8108**.

A coverage determination is any decision made by us regarding a request for Part D drug benefit or payment. There are two (2) types of coverage determinations:

- **Formulary UM Requirements** – A request for approval for a formulary Utilization Management (UM) requirement such as prior authorization, step therapy and quantity limitations.
- **Formulary Exceptions** - Request for Part D prescription drug not listed on the formulary or a request for an exception to the formulary UM requirements.

Grievance and Redetermination Overview

Enrollees can file a grievance or redetermination if they are not satisfied. A prescribing physician, acting on behalf of an enrollee, and with the enrollee's written consent, may file a grievance or redetermination, QIC, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Medicare Appeals Council (MAC), or Judicial Review as applicable.

Upon completion of the appeal process, if we do not make a decision timely, we will automatically forward the case to the QIC within twenty-four (24) hours. If the QIC decision is unfavorable to the enrollee, the enrollee or their representative may request an ALJ, MAC, or Judicial Review in successive order.

We will inform enrollees and providers of the grievance and redetermination procedures. This information is contained in the enrollee's Evidence of Coverage (EOC) and within the Provider Manual including being available on our website. When requested, we give enrollees reasonable assistance in completing forms and taking other procedural steps. Our assistance includes, but is not limited to, provider interpreter services and toll-free numbers that have adequate TTY/TTD and interpreter capability.

Grievances

A grievance may be filed with us orally or in writing either by the enrollee or the enrollee's authorized representative, including prescribing physicians. In most cases, a decision on the outcome of the grievance is reached within thirty (30) calendar days of the date the grievance was filed. If we are unable to resolve a grievance within thirty (30) calendar days, we may ask to extend the grievance decision date by fourteen (14) calendar days. In these cases, we will provide information describing the reason for the delay in writing to the enrollee and, upon request, to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and as required to the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM)

Enrollees are advised in writing of the outcome of the investigation of the grievance within two (2) calendar days of its resolution. The Notice of Resolution includes the decision reached and the reasons for the decision.

Expedited Grievance Resolution

We resolve grievances effectively and efficiently, as the enrollee's health requires. On occasion, certain issues may require a quick decision. These issues, known as expedited grievances, occur in situations where we have:

- Taken an extension on prior authorization or appeal decision making timeframe; or
- Determined that an enrollee's request for expedited prior authorized or expedited appeal decision making does not meet criteria and has transferred the request to a standard request
- Waiting the standard timeframe could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the enrollee

Enrollees and their authorized representative if designated are informed of their right to request an expedited grievance in their EOC and in the extension and denial of expedited processing prior authorization and appeal letters.

In these cases, a decision on the outcome of an expedited grievance is reached within twenty-four (24) hours of when the grievance was filed. Enrollees are advised orally of the resolution within the twenty-four (24) hours followed by a written notification of resolution within two (2) calendar days of the oral notification. The Notice of Resolution includes the decision reached and the reasons for the decision and the telephone number and address where the enrollee can speak with someone regarding the decision. The notice also tells an enrollee how to obtain information on filing an external grievance.

Quality Improvement Organization - Quality of Care Grievances

An enrollee may file a grievance regarding concerns of the quality of care received with Aetna Better Health of Ohio. For items or services covered by Medicare, an enrollee or their authorized representative may also file a quality of care concern with the CMS contracted Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). In Ohio, the QIO, which is located at:

Livanta
BFCC-QIO Program
10820 Guilford Road, Suite 202
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701
888-524-9900
833-868-4059 (fax)
888-985-8775 TTY

Telephone (toll free): 1-216-447-9604
Fax: (216) 447-7925

Regulatory Complaints

Enrollees or their designated representatives may submit complaints direct to a regulatory body through:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at 1-800- MEDICARE (1-800-633- 4227)
- State of Ohio Ombudsman's office at 1-800-282-1206

Redeterminations

An enrollee may file a redetermination, a formal request to appeal and reconsider a decision (e.g., utilization review recommendation, benefit payment, administrative action), with us. Authorized enrollee representatives, including prescribing physicians, may also file a redetermination on the enrollee's behalf with the written consent of the enrollee. Redeterminations must be filed no later than sixty (60) calendar days from the postmark on the Aetna Better Health of Ohio Notice of Denial.

The Notice of Denial informs the enrollee of the following:

- Our decision and the reasons for our decision
- The requirement and timeframes for filing a redetermination
- The availability of assistance in the filing process
- The toll-free numbers that the enrollee can use to file a redetermination by phone
- That the enrollee may represent himself or designate a legal counsel, a relative, a friend, a prescribing physician or other spokesperson to represent them
- The specific regulations that support, or the change in federal or state law that requires the action
- The fact that, when requested by the enrollee benefits will continue if the enrollee files an appeal within the timeframes specified for filing

Redeterminations may be filed either verbally by contacting our Member Services Department or by submitting a request in writing. Unless the enrollee is requesting an expedited appeal resolution, a verbal appeal request must be followed by a written request.

Enrollees may appeal the decision and request a redetermination of Aetna Better Health of Ohio's actions. Examples include:

- The denial or limited approval of a requested service, including the type or level of service

- The reduction, suspension, or termination of a previously approved service
- The denial, in whole or in part, of payment for a service
- The failure to provide services in a timely manner
- The failure to respond to an appeal in a timely manner
- The denial of an enrollee's request to obtain services outside of the contracting area when Aetna Better Health of Ohio is the only health plan servicing a rural area.

Enrollees may file a redetermination by:

- Calling our Member Services Department at 1-855-364-0974 TTY/TTD OH Relay 7-1-1
- Faxing the request to us at 1-855-883-9555
- Writing Aetna Better Health of Ohio at:
Aetna Better Health of OHIO
PO Box 818070
Cleveland, OH 44181

We will also provide enrollees with access to necessary medical records and information to file their appeals.

A brief overview of the appeals process follows:

- Verbal request for redetermination must be put into writing and signed.
- Aetna Better Health of Ohio notifies enrollees of receipt of the redetermination within three (3) business days via an acknowledgment letter.
- Enrollees are advised of their or their authorized representative's rights to provide more information and document for their redetermination either in person or in writing.
- Enrollees are advised of their, or their authorized representative's, right to view their redetermination file.
- Enrollees or their authorized representative may be present either onsite or via telephone when the Appeal Committee reviews their redetermination.
- Redeterminations will be resolved within seven (7) calendar days for standard requests, or seventy-two (72) hours for urgent requests.
- Aetna Better Health of Ohio makes reasonable effort to provide verbal notice and mails the decision letter within three (3) calendar days of the date of oral notification.
- For untimely decisions, the decision letter includes an explanation for the decision and notification that the appeal has been forwarded to the QIC for review.
- If the QIC does not agree with the enrollee's redetermination, the enrollee can ask for an ALJ hearing request to continue receiving benefits that were previously approved while the hearing is pending. If we reverse our original decision and grant the redetermination, services will begin immediately.

If an enrollee or their authorized representative shows good cause in writing, we may extend the time frame for filing a redetermination. The enrollee or their authorized representative must request the redetermination in writing and include the reason for good cause. The circumstances considered when making the decision to extend the timeframe for redetermination include, but are not limited to:

- The enrollee did not personally receive the adverse organization determination notice, or he/she received it late
- The enrollee was seriously ill, which prevented a timely appeal of the decision
- There was a death or serious illness in the enrollee's immediate family
- An accident caused important records to be destroyed
- Documentation was difficult to locate within the time limits
- The enrollee had incorrect or incomplete information concerning the reconsideration process
- The enrollee lacked capacity to understand the time frame for filing a request for redetermination

If we deny an enrollee's request for a good cause extension, the case will be forwarded to the QIC for dismissal. The enrollee has a right to file a grievance with the plan for the denial of a good cause extension.

Expedited Redeterminations

We resolve redeterminations effectively and efficiently, as the enrollee's health requires. On occasion, certain issues may require a quick decision. These issues, known as expedited redeterminations, occur in situations where an enrollee's life, health, or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function may be at risk, or in the opinion of the treating provider, the enrollee's condition cannot be adequately managed without urgent care or services. If the enrollee's ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function is not at risk, the request to process the redetermination in an expedited time frame may be denied, and the appeal processed within the normal seven (7) calendar day time frame. An enrollee or their authorized representative, including providers, may request an expedited redetermination, either verbally or in writing, within sixty (60) calendar days from the day of the decision or event in question. Written confirmation, or the enrollee's written consent, is not required to have the provider act on the enrollee's behalf.

Upon receipt of an expedited redetermination, we begin the process immediately. We attempt to acknowledge expedited redeterminations by telephone and in writing on the day the expedited request is received. Initial review of the issue begins in order to determine if the issue meets the definition of an expedited redetermination. If the issue fails to meet the definition of an expedited redetermination, the issue is transferred to the standard redetermination process. We make reasonable efforts to give the enrollee

prompt verbal notice of the denial of expedited processing and follow up in writing within three (3) calendar days of receipt of the expedited redetermination request.

In cases where the health plan determines that an enrollee's request meets expedited urgency or a provider supports the enrollee's request, we will render a decision as expeditiously as the enrollee's health requires, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours from the receipt of the appeal. We will make reasonable efforts to give the enrollee prompt verbal notice of the redetermination decision within the seventy-two (72) hours and will follow up in writing within three (3) calendar days of the verbal notification.

If we reverse our original decision and approve the redetermination, services will begin immediately.

Qualified Independent Contractor (QIC)

If we do not issue a decision timely on a coverage determination or a redetermination, we will forward the case to the QIC for review within twenty-four (24) hours. We will notify the enrollee that we have forwarded the case to the QIC for review in the Redetermination Decision Letter. The letter will include contact information for the QIC office and the enrollee's right to submit additional evidence, that may be relevant to the case, direct to the QIC office.

For all other redetermination decisions, if we do not agree with the enrollee's request for redetermination and the coverage determination decision is upheld at redetermination in whole or in part, the Redetermination Decision letter will include contact information for the QIC office, the enrollee's right to request a QIC review, and their right to submit additional evidence that may be relevant to the case direct to the QIC office.

The QIC will conduct the review as expeditiously as the enrollee's health condition requires, not to exceed seven (7) calendar days for a standard request, or seventy-two (72) hours for an expedited request. The QIC will notify all parties of the determination and will include the right to an ALJ hearing, and the procedure to request one, if the total dollar amount of the items/services being appealed meets or exceeds the established AIS threshold. This amount is calculated annually and published in the Federal Register prior to the end of each calendar year.

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)

If the QIC does not agree with the enrollee's request for redetermination, the enrollee or their authorized representative may file a request for an ALJ hearing in writing within sixty (60) calendar days of the QIC Notice of Denial. The request must be in writing to the ALJ hearing office specified in the QIC's denial notice. If we receive a written request for an ALJ

hearing from the enrollee, we will forward the enrollee's request to the QIC. The QIC will compile the redetermination file and forward it to the specified ALJ hearing office.

The ALJ will conduct its review as expeditiously as the enrollee's health condition requires, not to exceed ninety (90) calendar days for a standard request, or ten (10) calendar days for an expedited request and will notify all parties of the determination. The notification will include information about the right to a MAC review and the procedure to request one.

Medicare Appeals Council (MAC)

If the ALJ hearing does not agree with the enrollee's request for redetermination, the enrollee or their authorized representative may request a MAC review in writing, through a letter to the MAC, within sixty (60) calendar days of the ALJ decision. The request should be submitted directly to the MAC at the following address:

Department of Health and Human Services
Departmental Appeals Board, MS 6127
Medicare Appeals Council
330 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Cohen Building, Room G-644
Washington, DC 20201

The MAC will review the appeal and render a decision within ninety (90) calendar days for a standard request, and within ten (10) calendar days for an expedited request, from the receipt of the request and will notify all parties of determination. If the decision is upheld in whole or in part, notification will include the right and the timeframes to request a Judicial Review.

Judicial Review

Any party, the enrollee, their representative (if designated), or Aetna Better Health of Ohio, may request judicial review upon completion of the MAC review process when the total dollar amount of the items/services meets or exceeds the Amount in Controversy (AIC) threshold. This amount is calculated annually and published in the Federal Register prior to the end of each calendar year.

The party may combine claims to meet the amount in controversy requirement. To meet the requirement:

- All claims must belong to the same enrollee
- The MAC must have acted on all the claims
- The enrollee must meet the sixty (60) day filing time limit for all claims
- The request must identify all claims

To request a Judicial Review any party, must file a civil action in a district court of the United States. The action should be initiated in the judicial district in which the enrollee lives, or where the health plan has its principal place of business. If neither the organization nor the enrollee is in such judicial district, the action should be filed in the United States district court for the District of Columbia.

Chapter 14 – Advance Directives (The Patient Self-Determination Act)

Providers are required to comply with the Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA), the Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C) 5101:3-26-01 and 5101:3-3-16.2, and all other state and federal laws regarding advance directives for adult patients.

Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA)

The Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA) of 1990 requires health professionals and facilities, serving those covered by Medicare and Medicaid, to give adult patients written information about their rights to have an advance directive. An advance directive is a legal document through which an enrollee may provide directions or express preferences concerning his or her medical care and/or to appoint someone to act on his or her behalf. Advance directives are used when the patient is unable to make or communicate decisions about his or her medical treatment. Advance directives are prepared before any condition or circumstance occurs that causes the patient to be unable to actively make a decision about his or her medical care.

In Ohio, "advance directives" is the term used to describe four types of legal documents an enrollee can complete to express their wishes regarding their future health care:

- **An Ohio Durable Power of Attorney for health care (DPOA)** – Lets a patient name someone, called an “agent”, to make decisions about their medical care including decisions about life-sustaining treatment if the patient can no longer speak for themselves. The durable power of attorney of health care is especially useful because it appoints someone to speak on behalf of the enrollee any time the patient is unable to make their own medical decisions, not only at the end of life. The durable power of attorney for health care becomes effective when the provider determines that the patient has lost the capacity to make informed health care decisions.
- **A Declaration for Mental Health Treatment-** If a patient has a mental illness or has been diagnosed with a mental illness in the past, they may already have a DPOA. The patient may also opt to have a mental health declaration to address issues that might arise and are not specifically covered by their health care DPOA. The mental health declaration lets health care professionals know the patient’s preferences regarding mental health treatment. It also allows the patient to name, in the declaration, their "agent" to advocate for their stated choices and make other decisions in their best interest if the patient has not stated any preferences.
- **A DNR (Do-Not-Resuscitate) Order** – See below for a full description of a DNR.

- **Ohio Living Will Declaration**- Lets patients state their wishes about their health care in the event that they become terminally ill, or permanently unconscious, and can no longer make their own health care decisions.

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)

A person who does not wish to have Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) performed may make this wish known through a physician's order called a DNR order. A DNR order addresses the various methods used to revive people whose hearts have stopped functioning or who have stopped breathing. Examples of these treatments include chest compressions, electric heart shock, artificial breathing tubes, and special drugs. These standardized DNR orders allow patients to choose the extent of the treatment they wish to receive at the end of life. A patient may choose to be DNR Comfort Care (DNRCC) or a DNR Comfort Care – Arrest (DNRCC-Arrest).

- **DNR Comfort Care (DNRCC)** – a person receives any care that eases pain and suffering, but no resuscitative measures to save or sustain life. This protocol is activated immediately when a valid DNR order is issued or when a living will requesting no CPR becomes effective.
- **DNR Comfort Care – Arrest (DNRCC-Arrest)** – a person receives standard medical care until the time he or she experiences a cardiac or respiratory arrest. Standard medical care may include cardiac monitoring or intubation prior to the occurrence of cardiac or respiratory arrest. This protocol is activated when the patient has a cardiac or respiratory arrest. “Cardiac arrest” means absence of a palpable pulse. “Respiratory arrest” means absence of spontaneous respirations or presence of agonal breathing.

Ohio Department of Health approved DNR forms can be located in the following link:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/pdf/forms/dnrfrm.pdf>

Medical Records

The advance directive must be prominently displayed in the adult patient's medical record.

Requirements include:

- Providing written information to adult patient regarding each individual's rights under state law to make decisions regarding medical care and any provider written policies concerning advance directives (including any conscientious objections).
- Documenting, in the enrollee's medical record, whether or not the adult patient has been provided the information, and whether an advance directive has been executed.

- Not discriminating against an enrollee because of his or her decision to execute, or not execute, an advance directive and not making it a condition for the provision of care.
- Educating staff on issues related to advance directives, as well as communicating the enrollee’s wishes to attending staff at hospitals or other facilities.
- Educate patients on Advance Directives.

For additional information about medical record requirements, please visit Chapter 3 of this Manual.

As a pre-requisite for participation or continued participation in our network, all providers must maintain advance directive policies and make them available to Aetna Better Health of Ohio upon request.

Concerns

Complaints concerning noncompliance with advance directive requirements may be filed with Aetna Better Health of Ohio as a grievance or complaint.

Chapter 15 – Encounters, Billing and Claims

Aetna Better Health of Ohio processes claims for covered services provided to enrollees in accordance with applicable policies and procedures, and in compliance with applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. We use our business application system to process and adjudicate claims. Both electronic and manual claim submissions are accepted. To assist us in processing and paying claims efficiently, accurately and timely, we encourage providers to submit claims electronically. To facilitate electronic claims submissions, we have developed a business relationship with Emdeon. Aetna Better Health of Ohio receives Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) claims directly from this clearinghouse, processes them through pre-import edits to maintain the validity of the data, HIPAA compliance and enrollee enrollment, and then uploads them into our business application system each business day. Within twenty-four (24) hours of file receipt, we provide production reports and control totals to trading partners to validate successful transactions and identify errors for correction and resubmission.

Billing Encounters and Claims Overview

We are required to process claims in accordance with Medicare claim payment rules and regulations.

Providers must use valid International Classification of Disease, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD-10 CM) codes, and code to the highest level of specificity. Complete and accurate use of CMS's Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) and the American Medical Association's (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), 4th Edition, procedure codes are also required. Hospitals and providers using the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, (DSM IV) for coding must convert the information to the official ICD-10 CM codes. Failure to use the proper codes will result in diagnoses being rejected in the Risk- Adjustment Processing System.

Review of the medical record entry associated with the claim should obviously indicate all diagnoses that were addressed were reported.

Again, failure to use current coding guidelines may result in a delay in payment and/or rejection of a claim.

CMS Risk Adjustment Data Validation

Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) is an audit process to make certain the integrity and accuracy of risk-adjusted payment. CMS may require us to request medical records to verify the accuracy of diagnosis codes submitted on randomly selected claims.

It is important for providers and their office staff to be aware of risk adjustment data validation activities because we may request medical record documentation. Accurate risk-adjusted payment depends on the accurate diagnostic coding derived from the enrollee's medical record.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) specifically required implementation of a risk-adjustment method no later than January 1, 2000. In 2000-2001, encounter data collection was expanded to include outpatient hospital and physician data. Risk adjustment is used to fairly and accurately adjust payments made to Aetna Better Health of Ohio by CMS based on the health status and demographic characteristics of an enrollee. CMS requires us to submit diagnosis data regarding physician, inpatient, and outpatient hospital encounters on a quarterly basis, at minimum.

CMS uses the Hierarchical Condition Category payment model referred to as CMS-HCC model. This model uses the ICD-10 CM as the official diagnosis code set in determining the risk-adjustment factors for each enrollee. The risk factors based on HCCs are additive and are based on predicted expenditures for each disease category. For risk-adjustment purposes, CMS classifies the ICD-10CM codes by disease groups known as HCCs.

Providers are required to submit accurate, complete, and truthful risk adjustment data to us. Failure to submit complete and accurate risk adjustment data to CMS may affect payments made to us, and payments made by us to the provider organizations delegated for claims processing.

Certain combinations of coexisting diagnoses for an enrollee can increase their medical costs. The CMS hierarchical condition categories HCC model for coexisting conditions that should be coded for hospital and physician services are as follows:

- Code all documented conditions that coexist at time of encounter/visit and that require, or affect, enrollee care treatment or management. Do not code conditions that were previously treated and no longer exist. However, history codes (V10-V19) may be used as secondary codes if the historical condition or family history has an impact on current care or influences treatment.
- Providers and hospital outpatient departments should not code diagnoses documented as “probable”, “suspected”, “questionable”, “rule out” or “working” diagnosis. Rather, providers and hospital outpatient departments should code the condition(s) to the highest degree of certainty for that encounter/visit, such as symptoms, signs, abnormal test results, or other reason for the visit.

Annually, CMS conducts a medical record review to validate the accuracy of the risk-adjustment data submitted by Aetna Better Health of Ohio. Medical records created and

maintained by providers must correspond to and support the hospital inpatient, outpatient, and physician diagnoses submitted by the provider to us. In addition, regulations require that providers submit samples of medical records for validation of risk- adjustment data and the diagnoses reported to CMS, as required by CMS. Therefore, providers must give access to and maintain medical records in accordance with Medicare laws, rules, and regulations. CMS may adjust payments to us based on the outcome of the medical record review.

For more information related to risk adjustment, visit the CMS website at <http://csscooperations.com/internet/cssc3.nsf/docsCatHome/CSSC%20Operations>

Billing and Claims

When to Bill an Enrollee

All providers must adhere to federal financial protection laws and are prohibited from balance billing any enrollee beyond the enrollee’s cost sharing.

An enrollee may be billed only when the enrollee knowingly agrees to receive non-covered services under the MyCare Ohio plan

- Provider MUST notify the enrollee in advance that the charges will not be covered under the program.
- Provider MUST have the enrollee sign a statement agreeing to pay for the services and place the document in the enrollee’s medical record.

When to File a Claim

All claims and encounters must be reported to us, including prepaid services.

Clean Claims

We require clean claim submissions for processing. A “clean claim” is defined as one that can be processed (adjudicated) without obtaining additional information from the service provider or from a third party. It does not include claims submitted by providers under investigation for fraud or abuse or those claims under review for medical necessity.

Timely Filing of Claim Submissions

In accordance with contractual obligations, claims for services provided to an enrollee must be received in a timely manner. Our timely filing limitations are as follows:

- Participating Providers:
 - *New Claim Submissions* –Please consult your contract for your contractual timely filing limit for new claims. For hospital inpatient claims, date of service means the date of discharge of the enrollee.
 - *Claim Disputes & Resubmissions* – Please consult your contract for your contractual timely filing limit for disputes and corrected claims.

hospital inpatient claims, date of service means the date of discharge of the enrollee.

- Non-Participating Providers:
 - *New Claim Submissions* – Claim submissions must be filed within 365 days from the date of provision of the covered service or eligibility-posting deadline, whichever is later. For hospital inpatient claims, date of service means the date of discharge of the enrollee.
 - *Claim Disputes & Resubmissions* – Claim disputes & corrected claims must be filed within 365 days from the date of provision of the covered service or eligibility-posting deadline, whichever is later. For hospital inpatient claims, date of service means the date of discharge of the enrollee.

Failure to submit claims and encounter data within the prescribed time period may result in payment delay and/or denial. Non-network providers rendering prior authorized services follow the same timely filing guidelines as Original Medicare guidelines.

Injuries Due to an Accident

Medicare law only permits subrogation in cases where there is a reasonable expectation of third-party payment. In cases where legally required insurance (i.e. auto-liability) is not actually in force, we are required to assume responsibility for primary payment.

Claims Submission

Claims Filing Formats

Providers can elect to file claims with us in either an electronic or a hard copy format. Claims must be submitted using either the CMS 1500 or UB-04/1450 formats, based on your provider type as detailed below.

Electronic Claims Submission

- In an effort to streamline and refine claims processing and improve claims payment turnaround time, we encourage providers to electronically submit claims, through ECHO Health, Inc. <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/claims>.
- Please use the following Submitter (Payer) ID when submitting claims to us for both CMS 1500 and UB-04/1450 forms. You can submit claims by visiting the Claims Submission portal at www.echohealthinc.com Before submitting a claim through your clearinghouse, please make certain that your clearinghouse is compatible with ECHO Health, Inc.
 - Submitter (Payer) ID# **50023**

Please note that the Provider ID# 0082400, is used for FQHCs and RHCs when billing to ODM.

Important Points to Remember

- We do not accept direct EDI submissions from our providers.
- We do not perform any 837 testing directly with our providers but perform such testing with ECHO Health, Inc.
- For electronic resubmissions, providers must submit a frequency code of 7 or 8. Any claims with a frequency code of 5 will not be paid.

Paper Claims Submission

Providers can submit hard copy CM 1500 or UB-04/1450 claims directly to us via mail at the following address:

Aetna Better Health of Ohio (MyCare Ohio Program)
 PO Box 982966
 El Paso, TX 79998-2966

Risk Pool Criteria

If the claims paid exceed the revenues funded to the account, the providers should fund part or all of the shortfall. If the funding exceeds paid claims, part or all of the excess is distributed to the participating providers.

How to File a Claim

1. Select the appropriate claim form (refer to table below).

Service	Claim Form
Medical and professional services	CMS 1500 Form
Hospital inpatient, outpatient, nursing home and emergency room services	CMS UB-04/1450 Form
General dental services	ADA 2006 Claim Form
Dental services that are considered medical services (oral surgery, anesthesiology)	CMS 1500 Form

Instructions on how to fill out the claim forms can be found on our website.

2. Complete the claim form
3. Submit original copies of claims electronically or through the mail (do NOT fax). To include supporting documentation, such as enrollees’ medical records, clearly label and send to Aetna Better Health of Ohio at the correct address.

a. Electronic Clearing House

Providers who are contracted with us can use electronic billing software. Electronic billing allows faster processing and payment of claims, eliminates the cost of sending paper claims, allows tracking of each claim sent, and minimizes clerical data entry errors. Additionally, a Level Two report is provided to your vendor, which is the only accepted proof of timely filing for electronic claims.

- i. Emdeon is the EDI vendor we use
- ii. Contact your software vendor directly for further questions about your electronic billing
- iii. Contact our Provider Services Department for more information about electronic billing

All electronic submission should be submitted in compliance with applicable law including HIPAA regulations and Aetna Better Health of Ohio policies and procedures.

b. Through the mail

Claims	Claim Form	Electronic Submission
Medical	Aetna Better Health of Ohio (MyCare Ohio Program) PO Box 982966 El Paso, TX 79998-2966	Through Electronic Clearinghouse www.echohealthinc.com

Correct Coding Initiative

We follow the same standards as Medicare’s Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) policy and perform CCI edits and audits on claims for the same provider, same recipient, and same date of service. For more information on this initiative, please feel free to visit: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd/>.

We utilize ClaimCheck® as our comprehensive code auditing solution that will assist payers with proper reimbursement. Correct Coding Initiative guidelines will be followed in accordance with CMS and pertinent coding information received from other medical organizations or societies. Additional information will be released shortly regarding provider access to our unbundling software through Clear Claim Connection™.

Clear Claim Connection is a web-based, stand-alone code auditing reference tool designed to mirror our comprehensive code auditing solution through ClaimCheck. It enables us to share with our providers, the claim auditing rules and clinical rationale inherent in ClaimCheck.

Providers will have access to Clear Claim Connection through our website and a secure login. Clear Claim Connection coding combinations can be used to review claim outcomes after a claim has been processed. Coding combinations may also be reviewed prior to submission of a claim, so that the provider can view claim auditing rules and clinical rationale prior to submission of claims.

Correct Coding

Correct coding means billing for a group of procedures with the appropriate comprehensive code. All services that are integral to a procedure are considered bundled into that procedure as components of the comprehensive code when those services:

- Represent the standard of care for the overall procedure
- Are necessary to accomplish the comprehensive procedure
- Do not represent a separately identifiable procedure unrelated to the comprehensive procedure

Incorrect Coding

Examples of incorrect coding include:

- “Unbundling” - Fragmenting one service into components and coding each as if it were a separate service
- Billing separate codes for related services when one code includes all related services
- Breaking out bilateral procedures when one code is appropriate
- Down coding a service in order to use an additional code when one higher level, more comprehensive code is appropriate

Modifiers

Appropriate modifiers must be billed in order to reflect services provided and for claims to pay appropriately. We can request copies of operative reports or office notes to verify services provided. Common modifier issue clarification is below:

- **Modifier 59 – Distinct Procedural Services-** must be attached to a component code to indicate that the procedure was distinct or separate from other services performed on the same day and was not part of the comprehensive service. Medical

records must reflect appropriate use of the modifier. Modifier 59 cannot be billed with evaluation and management codes (99201-99499) or radiation therapy codes (77261-77499).

- **Modifier 25 – Significant, Separately Identifiable Evaluation and Management Service by the Same Physician on the Same Day of the Procedure or Other Service** - must be attached to a component code to indicate that the procedure was distinct or separate from other services performed on the same day and was not part of the comprehensive service. Medical records must reflect appropriate use of the modifier. Modifier 25 is used with Evaluation and Management codes and cannot be billed with surgical codes.
- **Modifier 50 – Bilateral Procedure** - If no code exists that identifies a bilateral service as bilateral, you may bill the component code with modifier 50. We follow the same billing process as CMS and the ODM when billing for bilateral procedures. Services should be billed on one line, reporting one unit with a 50 modifier.
- **Modifier 57 – Decision for Surgery** – must be attached to an Evaluation and Management code when a decision for surgery has been made. We follow CMS guidelines regarding whether the Evaluation and Management will be payable based on the global surgical period. CMS guidelines found in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 12 – Physicians/Nonphysician Practitioners indicate:

“Carriers pay for an evaluation and management service on the day of or on the day before a procedure with a 90-day global surgical period if the physician uses CPT modifier “-57” to indicate that the service resulted in the decision to perform the procedure. Carriers may not pay for an evaluation and management service billed with the CPT modifier “-57” if it was provided on the day of or the day before a procedure with a 0 or 10-day global surgical period.”

Please refer to your Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Manual for further detail on all modifier usage.

Checking Status of Claims

Providers may check the status of a claim by accessing our secure website or by calling the Claims Inquiry Claims Research (CICR) Department.

Online Status through our Secure Web Portal

We encourage providers to take advantage of using online status, as it is quick, convenient and can be used to determine status for multiple claims. To register, go to <http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/Ohio/> to download our Secure Web Portal Agreement. Contact our Provider Services Department for additional information or to schedule training.

Calling the Claims Inquiry Claims Research (CICR) Department

The Claims Inquiry Claims Research (CICR) Department is also available to:

- Answer questions about claims
- Assist in resolving problems or issues with a claim
- Provide an explanation of the claim adjudication process
- Help track the disposition of a particular claim
- Correct errors in claims processing:
 - Excludes corrections to prior authorization numbers (providers must call the Prior Authorization Department directly).
 - Excludes rebilling a claim (the entire claim must be resubmitted with corrections). Please be prepared to give the service representative the following information:

Payment of Claims

We process claims and notify providers of outcomes using a Remittance Advice. Providers may choose to receive checks through the mail or electronically. We encourage providers to take advantage of receiving Electronic Remittance Advices (ERA), which are received much sooner than Remittance Advice received through the mail, enabling you to post payments sooner. Please contact our Provider Services Department for further information on how to receive ERA.

Aetna Better Health of Ohio will notify providers who have submitted claims of the claim's status (paid denied, and all claims not in a final paid or denied status) within one month of receipt by claim remittance.

Providers can utilize the Aetna Better Health of Ohio provider portal to access remittance advices upon request.

If a provider and/or a provider's clearinghouse submits a HIPAA compliant 276 EDI transaction to Aetna Better Health of Ohio, there will be a complete HIPAA compliant 277 EDI transaction within the required Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare, Inc. (CAQH) Committee on Operating Rules for Information Exchange (CORE) timeframes with the HIPAA compliant claim status category code(s) and claim status code(s) that will provide information on all denied, paid, or pending claims to the submitter.

Through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), providers have the ability to direct funds to a designated bank account. We encourage you to take advantage of EFT. Since EFT allows funds to be deposited directly into your bank account, you will receive payment much sooner than waiting for the mailed check. Payment for the MyCare Ohio plan will be made on separate checks, one check from Medicare, and one check from Medicaid. You may enroll in EFT by submitting an EFT Enrollment Form, which is located on our website, or by contacting our

Provider Services Department. Submit this form along with a voided check to process the request. Please allow at least 30 days for EFT to be established. Our Provider Services Department can assist you with this process.

Claim Resubmission

Non-participating Providers have 365 days from the date of service to resubmit a revised version of a processed claim. Participating providers should refer to their contract for timely filing and resubmission time frames. The review and reprocessing of a claim does not constitute a reconsideration or claim dispute.

Providers may resubmit a claim that:

- Was originally denied because of missing documentation, incorrect coding, etc.
- Was incorrectly paid or denied because of processing errors

Include the following information when filing a resubmission:

- Use the Resubmission Form located on our website
- An updated copy of the claim. All lines must be rebilled. A copy of the original claim (reprint or copy is acceptable)
- A copy of the remittance advice on which the claim was denied or incorrectly paid
- Any additional documentation required
- A brief note describing requested correction
- Clearly label as “Resubmission” at the top of the claim in black ink and mail to appropriate claims address.

Resubmissions may not be submitted electronically. Failure to mail and accurately label the resubmission to the correct address will cause the claim to deny as a duplicate.

Claim Reconsiderations

Conditions for payment are outlined in your Provider Agreement and fee schedule. Claim payments are adjudicated in accordance with your Provider Agreement. CMS prohibits MyCare Ohio plans from applying the mandated Medicare enrollee appeal process to providers. Providers are encouraged to contact the Claims Inquiry Claims Research (CICR) Department with questions on how their claim paid. We will work with the provider to resolve the issue if an error is discovered. In some situations, we may require the provider to resubmit the claim for reprocessing. For additional information about claims disputes, please see the Grievance Systems Chapter in this Manual (Chapter 16).

Instruction for Specific Claims Types

General Claims Payment Information

Our claims are always paid in accordance with the terms outlined in your Provider Agreement. Prior authorized services from Non-Participating Health Providers will be paid in accordance with Original Medicare claim processing rules.

Nursing Homes

Providers submitting claims for nursing homes should use the CMS UB-04 Form.

Home Health Claims

Providers must bill in accordance with their Provider Agreement. Non-participating health care providers must bill according to CMS HHPPS requirement rules for Aetna Better Health of Ohio. For additional information regarding CMS Home Health Prospective Payment System (HHPPS), please refer to the following CMS website address: <http://www.cms.gov/HomeHealthPPS/> .

Home Health Agencies

No payment will be made unless the claim for payment is supported by documentation of the time spent providing services to each enrollee.

Dental Claims

Providers may use standard dental claim form, 837D, in addition to the CMS 1500 form. The 837D form can include applicable CDT codes as opposed to CPT codes with medical **ICD-10 diagnosis code**.

All dental claims inextricably linked to other medically covered services which are submitted to Aetna on a dental claim form must meet the following requirements:

- ICD-10 diagnosis code must be included in the Box 34A of the 837D Dental Claim form.
- Modifier KX, must be located at the beginning of Box 30, to indicate the dental service is medically necessary and appropriately documented in the patient's medical record.

Please see the [CMS site](#)'s notification on '**Dental and Oral Health Services**' for further details.

Please note: Regular routine dental services should be submitted through DentaQuest. Please contact [DentaQuest](#), **1-800-341-8478**, for any claims submission questions relating to routine non-medical dental services.

Personal Emergency Response System

All bills for Personal Emergency Response Systems should contain a dated certification by the provider that the care, services, and supplies itemized have in fact been furnished.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Rental Claims

Providers submitting claims for DME Rental should use the CMS 1500 Form.

DME rental claims are only paid up to the purchase price of the durable medical equipment.

There is a billing discrepancy rule difference between Days versus Units for DME rentals between Medicaid and the MyCare Ohio plan. Units billed for MyCare Ohio equal 1 per month. Units billed for Medicaid equal the amount of days billed. Since appropriate billing for CMS is 1 Unit per month, in order to determine the amount of days needed to determine appropriate benefits payable under Medicaid, the claim requires the date span (from and to date) of the

rental. Medicaid will calculate the amount of days needed for the claim based on the date span.

Same Day Readmission

Providers submitting claims for inpatient facilities should use the CMS UB-04 Form.

There may be occasions where an enrollee may be discharged from an inpatient facility and then readmitted later that same day. We define same day readmission as a readmission with twenty-four (24) hours of discharge.

Example: *Discharge Date: 10/2/10 at 11:00 a.m. / Readmission Date: 10/3/10 at 9:00 a.m.*

Since the readmission was within twenty-four (24) hours, this would be considered a same day readmission per above definition.

Hospice Claims

The only claims payable during a hospice election period by Aetna Better Health of Ohio are additional benefits covered under us that would not normally be covered under the MyCare Ohio plan covered services. All other claims need to be resubmitted to Original Medicare for processing, regardless of whether they are related to hospice services or not.

HCPCS Codes

There may be differences in what codes can be billed for Medicare versus Medicaid. We follow Medicare billing requirement rules, which could result in separate billing for claims under Aetna Better Health of Ohio. While most claims can be processed under both the MyCare Ohio plan, and Medicaid, there may be instances where separate billing may be required. Remittance Advice

Provider Remittance Advice

We generate checks weekly. Claims processed during a payment cycle will appear on a remittance advice (“remit”) as paid, denied, or reversed. Adjustments to incorrectly paid claims may reduce the check amount or cause a check not to be issued. Please review each remit carefully and compare to prior remits to make certain proper tracking and posting of adjustments. We recommend that you keep all remittance advices and use the information to post payments and reversals and make corrections for any claims requiring resubmission. Call our Provider Services Department if you are interested in receiving electronic remittance advices.

The Provider Remittance Advice (remit) is the notification to the provider of the claims processed during the payment cycle. A separate remit is provided for each line of business in which the provider participates.

Information provided on the remit includes:

- The Summary Box found at the top right of the first page of the remit summarizes the amounts processed for this payment cycle.
- The Remit Date represents the end of the payment cycle.
- The Beginning Balance represents any funds still owed to Aetna Better Health of Ohio for previous overpayments not yet recouped or funds advanced.
- The Processed Amount is the total of the amount processed for each claim represented on the remit.
- The Discount Penalty is the amount deducted from, or added to, the processed amount due to late or early payment, depending on the terms of the Provider Agreement.
- The Net Amount is the sum of the Processed Amount and the Discount/Penalty.
- The Refund Amount represents funds that the provider has returned to Aetna Better Health of Ohio due to overpayment.

- These are listed to identify claims that have been reversed. The reversed amounts are included in the Processed Amount above. Claims that have refunds applied are noted with a Claim Status of “REVERSED” in the claim detail header with a non-zero Refund Amount listed.
- We will provide notification to providers via mail, 18 days prior to any recoupment efforts. It provides you with an opportunity from the print date of the letter to dispute our findings. It also includes instructions on how to issue a refund to the overpayment, if applicable.
- The Amount Paid is the total of the Net Amount, plus the Refund Amount, minus the Amount Recouped.
- The Ending Balance represents any funds still owed to Aetna Better Health of Ohio after this payment cycle. This will result in a negative Amount Paid.
- The Check # and Check Amount are listed if there is a check associated with the remit. If payment is made electronically, then the EFT Reference # and EFT Amount are listed, along with the last four digits of the bank account to which the funds were transferred. There are separate checks and remits for each line of business in which the provider participates.
- The Benefit Plan refers to the line of business applicable for this remit. TIN refers to the tax identification number.
- The Claim Header area of the remit lists information pertinent to the entire claim. This includes:
 - Enrollee Name
 - ID
 - Birth Date
 - Account Number
 - Authorization ID, if Obtained
 - Provider Name
 - Claim Status
 - Claim Number
 - Refund Amount, if Applicable
- The Claim Totals are totals of the amounts listed for each line item of that claim.
- The Code/Description area lists the processing messages for the claim.
- The Remit Totals are the total amounts of all claims processed during this payment cycle.
- The Message at the end of the remit contains claims inquiry and resubmission information, as well as grievance rights information.

An electronic version of the Remittance Advice can be obtained. In order to qualify for Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA), you must currently submit claims through EDI and receive payment for claim by EFT. You must also have the ability to receive ERA through an 835 file. We encourage our providers to take advantage of EDI, EFT, and ERA, as it shortens the turnaround time for you to receive payment and reconcile your outstanding accounts. Please contact our Provider Services Department for assistance with this process.

Encounter Data Management (EDM) System

Aetna Better Health of Ohio uses an Encounter Data Management (EDM) System that warehouses claims data and formats encounter data to the ODM requirements. The EDM System also warehouses encounter data from vendors, and formats it for submission to the ODM. We use our state-of-the-art EDM System to monitor data for accuracy, timeliness, completeness and we then submit encounter data to the ODM. Our EDM System processes CMS1500, UB04 (or UB92), Dental, Pharmacy and Long-Term Care claims and the most current coding protocols (e.g., standard CMS procedure or service codes, such as ICD-9, CPT-4, HCPCS-I, II). Our Provider Agreements require providers to submit claims on the approved claim form and each claim must contain the necessary data requirements. Part of our encounter protocol is the requirement for providers to utilize NDC coding in accordance with the ODM's requirements.

The EDM System has top-of-the-line functionality to accurately, and consistently tracks encounters throughout the submission continuum including collection, validation, reporting, and correction. Our EDM System is able to electronically accept a HIPAA-compliant 837 (I and/or P) electronic claim transaction, 835 Claim Payment/Advice transaction and the NCPDP D.O. or PAH transaction in standard format and we require our providers and their clearinghouses to send electronic claims in these formats. We collect claims information from multiple data sources into the EDM System for processing, including data from our claims adjudication system, as well as data from third-party vendors under contract to process various claims, such as dental, vision, transportation and pharmacy. Our EDM System accommodates all data sources and provides a single repository for the collection of claims/encounters. Through our EDM System, we conduct a coordinated set of edits and data checks and identify potential data issues at the earliest possible stage of the process. Below we describe in more detail the different checkpoints.

Claims Processing

Our business application system has a series of active claim edits to determine if the appropriate claim fields contain the required values. We deny, completely or in part, claims submitted without required information or with invalid information. The provider is required to resubmit the claim with valid information before they receive payment. After adjudication and payment, we export claims data from our business application system into our EDM System. Our Encounter Management Unit validates the receipt of all the business application system claims data into EDM System using a transfer validation report. The Encounter Management Unit researches, tracks, and reports any discrepancy until that discrepancy is completely resolved.

Encounter Staging Area

One of the unique features of our EDM System is the Encounter Staging Area. The Encounter Staging Area enables the Encounter Management Unit to evaluate all data files from our business application system and third-party vendors (e.g., Pharmacy Benefit Management, dental or vision vendors) for accuracy and completeness prior to loading into the EDM System. We maintain Encounters in the staging area until the Encounter Management Unit validates that each encounter contains all required data and is populated with the appropriate values.

Our Encounter Management Unit directs, monitors, tracks, and reports issue resolution. The Encounter Management Unit is responsible for tracking resolution of all discrepancies.

Encounter Data Management (EDM) System Scrub Edits

This EDM System feature allows the Encounter Management Unit to apply the ODM's edit profiles to identify records that may be unacceptable to the ODM. Our Encounter Management Unit is able to customize our EDM System edits to match the edit standards and other requirements of the ODM. This means that we can align our encounter edit configuration with the ODM's configuration to improve encounter acceptance rates.

Encounter Tracking Reports

Encounter Tracking Reports are another unique feature of our EDM System. Reports are custom tailored for each program. Our Encounter Management Unit uses a series of customized management reports to monitor, identify, track, and resolve problems in the EDM System or issues with an encounter file. Using these reports, our Encounter Management Unit is able to identify the status of each encounter in the EDM by claim adjudication date and date of service. Using these highly responsive and functional reports, our Encounter Management Unit can monitor the accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of encounter transactions from entry into the EDM System, to submission and acceptance by the ODM. Reports are run to make certain that all appropriate claims have been extracted from the claims processing system.

Data Correction

As described above, the Encounter Management Unit is responsible for the EDM System. This responsibility includes managing the data correction process, should it be necessary to resubmit an encounter due to rejection of the encounter by the ODM. Our Encounter Management Unit uses two processes to manage encounter correction activities:

1. Encounters requiring re-adjudication and those where re-adjudication is unnecessary. If re-adjudication is unnecessary, the Encounter Management Unit will execute corrections to allow resubmission of encounter errors in accordance with the ODM encounter correction protocol.
2. Encounter errors that require claim re-adjudication are reprocessed in the appropriate claim system. The adjusted claim is imported into the Encounter Data Management System (EDM) for resubmission to the ODM in accordance with the encounter correction protocol, which is tailored to the ODM's requirements. The Encounter Data Management System (EDM) generates, as required, the appropriate void, replacement and/or corrected records.

Although our data correction procedures enable the Encounter Management Unit to identify and correct encounters that failed the ODM's acceptance process, we prefer to initially process and submit accurate encounters. We apply lessons learned through the data correction procedures to improve our EDM System scrub and edit described above. In this way, we will expand our EDM System scrub edits to improve accuracy of our encounter submissions and to minimize encounter rejections. This is part of our continuous process improvement protocol.

Our Encounter Management Unit is important to the timely, accurate, and complete processing and submission of encounter data to the ODM. Our Encounter Management Unit has specially trained Correction Analysts with experience, knowledge, and training in encounter management, claim adjudication, and claim research. This substantial skill base allows us to research and adjust encounter errors accurately and efficiently. Additionally, the unit includes Technical Analysts who perform the data extract and import functions, perform data analysis, and are responsible for oversight and monitoring of encounter files submissions to the ODM. The team includes a Technical Supervisor and a Project Manager to monitor the program.

Another critical step in our encounter data correction process is the encounter error report. We generate this report upon receipt of response files from the ODM and give our Encounter Management Unit critical information to identify and quantify encounter errors by type and age. This data facilitates the monitoring and resolution of encounter errors and supports the timely resubmission of corrected encounters.

Chapter 16 – Grievance System

Enrollee Grievance System Overview

Aetna Better Health of Ohio takes grievances and appeals very seriously. We want to know what is wrong so we can make our services better. Enrollees can file a complaint, grievance or appeal if they are not satisfied. A network provider, acting on behalf of an enrollee and with the enrollee's written consent, may file a grievance, appeal, State Fair Hearing, Independent Review Entity (IRE) review, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) review, Medicare Appeals Council (MAC), or Judicial Review as applicable.

For Medicaid only covered items/services, an enrollee or their authorized representative may request a State Fair Hearing through the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) after the appeal process.

For Medicare Part D covered medications, if we uphold the coverage decision in whole or in part, the enrollee or their authorized representative can request an Independent Review Entity (IRE) review. If the IRE upholds the decision and the total of the medications appealed, meets the Amount in Controversy (AIC) established dollar amount for the coverage year, the enrollee or their authorized representative may request an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Medicare Appeals Council (MAC) or Judicial Review in successive order.

For all other Medicare only covered items/services, if we uphold the coverage decision in whole or in part, we will automatically forward the case to the Independent Review Entity (IRE). If the IRE upholds the decision and the total of the item/services appealed, meets the Amount in Controversy (AIC) established dollar amount for the coverage year, the enrollee or their authorized representative may request an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Medicare Appeals Council (MAC) or Judicial Review in successive order.

For items/services covered by both Medicaid and Medicare, upon completion of the appeal process, if we uphold the coverage decision in whole or in part, we will automatically forward the case to the Independent Review Entity (IRE), and the enrollee or their authorized representative may request a State Fair Hearing through the ODM. In instances where a case is reviewed both by the IRE and the State Fair Hearing officer, the decision that is most favorable to the enrollee will be the one that counts. If both decisions are unfavorable to the enrollee and the total of the item/services appealed meets the AIC established dollar amount for the coverage year, enrollees or their representative may request an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Medicare Appeals Council (MAC), or Judicial Review in successive order.

We inform enrollees and providers of the grievance, appeal, and State Fair Hearing procedures. This information is contained in the enrollee’s Evidence of Coverage (EOC) within this Provider Manual, including being available on our website. When requested, we provide enrollees reasonable assistance in completing forms and taking other procedural steps. Our assistance includes, but is not limited to, provider interpreter services and toll-free numbers that have adequate TTY/TTD and interpreter capability.

Grievances

A grievance may be filed with us either orally, or in writing, by the enrollee or the enrollee’s authorized representative, including providers. We respond to grievances within the following timeframes:

- Two (2) business days when the grievance is about access to service
- Thirty (30) calendar days for all other grievances

Enrollees are advised in writing of the outcome of the grievance investigation the same day as the decision, when the grievance involves disputed care or services, and for all other grievances, within two (2) business days of when we make our decision on your grievance and within the processing time described above. The Notice of Resolution includes the decision reached and, the reasons for the decision.

Grievance Extension

If we are unable to resolve a standard grievance within the specified timeframe, we may ask to extend the grievance decision date by fourteen (14) calendar days. We will only take an extension if it is in the enrollee’s best interest. In these cases, we will provide information describing the reason for the delay in writing to the enrollee and, upon request, to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and as required by the ODM.

Expedited Grievance Resolution

We resolve grievances effectively and efficiently, as the enrollee’s health requires. On occasion, certain issues may require a quick decision. These issues, known as expedited grievances, occur in situations where we have:

- Taken an extension on prior authorization or appeal decision making timeframe; or
- Determined that an enrollee’s request for expedited prior authorized, or expedited appeal decision making, does not meet the criteria, has denied expedited processing time, and has transferred the request to a standard request

Enrollees and their representative, if designated, are informed of their right to request an expedited grievance in the EOC and in the extension and denial of expedited processing prior authorization and appeal letters. In most cases, a decision on the outcome of an expedited grievance is reached within twenty-four (24) hours of the date the grievance was filed. Enrollees are advised orally of the resolution within twenty-four (24) hours, followed by a written notification of resolution within two (2) business days of the oral notification. The Notice of Resolution includes the decision reached and, the reasons for the decision.

Quality Improvement Organization - Quality of Care Grievances

An enrollee may file a grievance regarding the quality of care they received. For items or services covered by Medicare, an enrollee or their authorized representative may a quality of care grievance direct with us, with CMS’s contracted Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) or with both Aetna and the QIO. In Ohio, the QIO is Livanta, which is located at:

Livanta
BFCC-QIO Program
10820 Guilford Road, Suite 202
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701
888-524-9900
833-868-4059 (fax)
888-985-8775 TTY

Regulatory Complaints

For items/services covered by Medicaid only, an enrollee or their authorized representative may submit complaints direct to the State, primarily through the Ombudsman’s office at 1-800-282-1206.

For items/services covered by Medicare only, an enrollee or their authorized representative may submit complaints direct to CMS through 1-800- MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

For items/services covered by both Medicaid and Medicare, an enrollee or their authorized representative may submit complaints direct to the State, primarily through the Ombudsman’s office at 1-800-282-1206, or to CMS through 1-800- MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Appeals

An enrollee may file an appeal, a formal request to reconsider a decision (e.g., utilization review recommendation, benefit payment, administrative action, quality-of-care or service issue), with us. Authorized enrollee representatives, including providers, may also file an

appeal on the enrollee's behalf with the written consent of the enrollee. Appeals must be filed no later than sixty-five (65) calendar days from the postmark on the Aetna Better Health of Ohio Notice of Action. The expiration date to file an appeal is included in the Notice of Action.

The Notice of Action informs the enrollee of the following:

- Our decision and the reasons for our decision
- The requirement and timeframes for filing an appeal
- The availability of assistance in the filing process
- The toll-free numbers that the enrollee can use to file an appeal by phone
- The procedures for exercising their rights to appeal and/or a State Fair Hearing
- That the enrollee may represent himself or designate legal counsel, a relative, a friend, a provider or other spokesperson to represent them
- The specific regulations that support, or the change in Federal or State law, that requires the action
- The fact that, when requested by the enrollee, benefits will continue if the enrollee files an appeal or requests a State Fair Hearing within the timeframes specified for filing

Appeals may be filed either verbally, by contacting our Member Services Department, or by submitting a request in writing. Unless the enrollee is requesting an expedited appeal resolution, a verbal appeal request must be followed by a written request.

Enrollees may appeal the decision and request a further review of our actions. Examples of appeals include:

- The denial or limited approval of a requested service, including the type or level of service
- The reduction, suspension, or termination of a previously approved service
- The denial, in whole or in part, of payment for a service
- The failure to provide services in a timely manner
- The failure to respond to an appeal in a timely manner
- The denial of an enrollee's request to obtain services outside of the contracting area when Aetna Better Health of Ohio is the only health plan servicing a rural area.

Enrollees may file an appeal by:

- Calling our Member Services Department at 1-855-364-0974 TTY/TTD NY Relay 7-1-1
- Writing Aetna Better Health of Ohio at:

Aetna Better Health of OHIO
PO Box 818070
Cleveland, OH 44181

Continuation of Benefits

For items/services that the enrollee is currently receiving that are being reduced, denied, termed or suspended, the enrollee may continue to receive the items/services at the current level during the appeal process if the enrollee requests services to continue while the appeal is reviewed and the enrollee filed the appeal no later than fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of our Notice of Action letter, or the effective date of our proposed termination, suspension or reduction of previously authorized services. We will also provide enrollees with access to necessary medical records and information to file their appeals.

Appeal Process

A brief overview of the appeals process follows:

- Verbal appeals must be put into writing and signed.
- We notify enrollees of receipt of the appeal within three (3) business days via an acknowledgment letter.
- Enrollees are advised of their, or their authorized representative's, rights to provide more information and document for their appeal either in person or in writing.
- Enrollees are advised of their, or their authorized representative's right, to view their appeal file.
- Enrollees or their authorized representative may be present either onsite, or via telephone, when the Appeal Committee reviews their appeal.
- Appeals will be resolved within fifteen (15) calendar days (or twenty-nine (29) calendar days if an extension is granted and we provide a reason for the extension, or the enrollee or their authorized representative requests the extension) after Aetna Better Health of Ohio receives the appeal.
- We make reasonable effort to provide verbal notice and mail the decision letter, including an explanation for the decision, within two (2) business days of the Appeal Committee's decision.
- If we do not agree with the enrollee's appeal, the enrollee can ask for a State Fair Hearing and request to receive benefits while the hearing is pending. Enrollees can also request that the appeal be reviewed by the ODM.
- If we, or the State Fair Hearing officer, reverses the original decision and approves the appeal, services will begin immediately.
- The member has the right to request continuation of benefits during an appeal or a State hearing. At the discretion of ODM, the member may be liable for the cost of any such continued benefits.

Expedited Appeal Resolution

We resolve appeals effectively and efficiently, as the enrollee's health requires. On occasion, certain issues may require a quick decision. These issues, known as expedited appeals, occur in situations where an enrollee's life, health, or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function may be at risk, or in the opinion of the treating provider, the

enrollee's condition cannot be adequately managed without urgent care or services. If the enrollee's ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function is not at risk, the request to process the appeal in an expedited time frame may be denied and the appeal processed within the normal fifteen (15) business day time frame. An enrollee or their authorized representative, including providers, may request an expedited appeal either verbally, or in writing, within sixty-five (65) calendar days from the day of the decision or event in question. Written confirmation or the enrollee's written consent is not required to have the provider act on the enrollee's behalf for an expedited appeal.

Upon receipt of an expedited appeal, we begin the appeal process immediately. We attempt to acknowledge expedited appeals by telephone and in writing on the day the expedited request is received. Initial review of the issue begins in order to determine if the issue meets the definition of an expedited appeal. If the issue fails to meet the definition of an expedited appeal, the issue is transferred to the standard appeal process. We make reasonable efforts to give the enrollee prompt verbal notice of the denial of expedited processing time within one (1) business day and follow up within two (2) calendar days with a written notice.

In cases where the health plan determines if an enrollee's request meets expedited urgency, or a provider supports the enrollee's request, our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) will render a decision as expeditiously as the enrollee's health requires, but no later than seventy-two (72) hours from the receipt of the expedited appeal.

If enrollees wish for services to continue while their appeal is reviewed, they must request the appeal within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the Notice of Action letter or the intended effective date of the action. If we reverse our original decision and approve the appeal, services will begin immediately.

Appeal Extension

If we are unable to resolve a standard or an expedited appeal within the specified timeframe, we may extend the period by up to fourteen (14) calendar days. We will only take an extension if it is in the enrollee's best interest. In these cases, we will provide information describing the reason for the delay in writing to the enrollee and, upon request, to CMS and as required to the ODM.

Failure to Make a Timely Decision

Appeals must be resolved within stated timeframes and parties must be informed of our decision.

For items/services covered by Medicaid only: if a determination is not made by the above timeframes, the enrollee’s request will be deemed to have been approved as of the date upon which a final determination should have been made.

For items/services covered by Medicare only or by both Medicare and Medicaid: if a determination is not made by the above timeframes, the enrollee’s request will be automatically forwarded to the Independent Review Entity (IRE) for review.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) State Fair Hearing

For items/services covered by Medicaid only or by both Medicaid and Medicare, the enrollee and/or the enrollee’s authorized representative acting on behalf of the enrollee may request a State Fair Hearing through the ODM within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from Aetna Better Health’s Notice of Action (NOA) Letter or the Appeal Decision Letter.

If enrollees wish services to continue receiving services while their State Fair Hearing is reviewed, they must request a State Fair Hearing within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the Notice of Action Letter or the Appeal Decision Letter. At the State Fair Hearing, enrollees may represent themselves or be represented by a lawyer, their provider or other authorized representative, with the enrollee’s written permission. To request a State Fair Hearing, enrollees must:

- Submit a request for a State Fair Hearing to the ODM
- Fax to 1-614-728-9574

To submit a request in writing, enrollees should write to:

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Bureau of State Hearings
P.O. Box 182825
Columbus, OH 43218-2825
Fax: 1-614-728-9574
Email: bsh@jfs.ohio.gov Subject line: State Hearing Request

The State Fair Hearing officer will render a decision about services. If the hearing decision favors the enrollee, then we will commence the services immediately.

Independent Review Entity (IRE)

For Medicare Part D covered medications, if the decision is upheld at appeal in whole or in part, the enrollee or their authorized representative can request an Independent Review Entity (IRE) review. If the IRE upholds the decision and the total of the medications appealed meets the Amount in Controversy (AIC) established dollar amount for the

coverage year the enrollee or their authorized representative may request an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Medicare Appeals Council (MAC), or Judicial Review in successive order.

The IRE will conduct the review as expeditiously as the enrollee’s health condition requires, notify all parties of the determination, and outline the procedure to request an ALJ Hearing if the total dollar amount of the items/services being appealed meets or exceeds the established AIC threshold.

For all other items/services covered by Medicare only or by both Medicare and Medicaid, if the decision is upheld at appeal in whole or in part, we will submit a case summary to the Independent Review Entity (IRE). We will then notify the enrollee that we forwarded the case to the IRE for review in the Appeal Decision Letter. The notice will include contact information for the IRE and the enrollee’s right to submit additional evidence that may be relevant to the case direct to the IRE.

The Independent Review Entity (IRE) will conduct the review as expeditiously as the enrollee’s health condition requires, will notify all parties of the determination, and will include the right to an ALJ hearing and the procedure to request one if the total dollar amount of the items/services being appealed meets or exceeds the established AIC threshold.

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)

The enrollee or their authorized representative may file a request for an ALJ hearing in writing within sixty (60) calendar days of the IRE notice of determination, to the entity specified in the IRE’s reconsideration notice. If we receive a written request for an ALJ hearing from the enrollee, we will forward the enrollee’s request to the IRE. The IRE will compile the reconsideration file and forward it to the appropriate ALJ hearing office.

Medicare Appeals Council (MAC)

The enrollee or their authorized representative may request a MAC review in writing through a letter to the MAC within sixty (60) calendar days of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) decision. The request should be submitted directly to the MAC at the following address:

Department of Health and Human Services
Departmental Appeals Board, MS 6127
Medicare Appeals Council

³ This amount is calculated annually and published in the Federal Register prior to the end of each year.

⁴ This amount is calculated annually and published in the Federal Register prior to the end of each year.

330 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Cohen Building, Room G-644
Washington, DC 20201

The MAC will review the appeal, render a decision, and notify all parties within ninety (90) calendar days of receipt of the request. If the appeal decision is upheld in whole or in part, notification will include the right and the timeframes to request a MAC review.

Judicial Review

Any party, the enrollee, their representative, if designated, or Aetna Better Health of Ohio, may request judicial review upon completion of the MAC review process when the total dollar amount of the items/services meets or exceeds the Amount in Controversy (AIC) threshold.

The party may combine claims to meet the amount in controversy requirement. To meet the requirement:

- All claims must belong to the same enrollee
- The MAC must have acted on all the claims
- The enrollee must meet the 60-day filing time limit for all claims
- The request must identify all claims.

To request a Judicial Review any party, must file a civil action in a district court of the United States. The action should be initiated in the judicial district in which the enrollee lives, or where the health plan has its principal place of business. If neither the organization, nor the enrollee, is in such judicial district, the action should be filed in the United States district court for the District of Columbia.

Participating Provider Claim Disputes

Aetna Better Health of Ohio and our participating providers are responsible for timely resolution of any disputes between both parties. Disputes, also known as reconsiderations, will be settled according to the terms of our contractual agreement and there will be no disruption or interference with the provision of services to enrollees as a result of disputes.

We will inform providers through the Provider Manual and other methods including Provider Newsletters, training, provider orientation, webinars, the website and through provider inquires to their Provider Services Representative about the provider claims dispute process. Our Provider Services Representatives are available to discuss a provider's dissatisfaction with a decision based on this policy and contractual provisions, inclusive of claim disputes.

⁵This amount is calculated annually and published in the Federal Register prior to the end of each year.

To have a claim reconsidered through our claim dispute process for par providers, the contracted provider may submit using one of two methods:

1. The PAR Provider Claims Dispute Form is accessible on our website under the “For Providers” link, under “Forms” and then PAR Provider Dispute Form. Complete and submit the PAR Provider Claims Dispute Form along with the claim and any appropriate supporting documentation (if applicable) to:

Aetna Better Health of Ohio
P.O. Box 982966
El Paso, TX 79998-2966

2. Log into the Secure Provider Web Portal located on our website under the ‘For Providers’ link at <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/portal>. For instructions, please visit our website under the ‘For Providers’ link, and click on Resources, then Tools & Resources. Here, you will find a PDF document under Online Provider Dispute Instructions to walk you through the process. You will also be required to upload any supporting documentation required for the reconsideration of your claim related to your Dispute.

Claims Disputes for Participating are delegated to Claims Investigation / Claims Research Department for review, research and analysis. Providers will be notified of the decision for a Claim Dispute via remit (along with claim edits and descriptions) for reprocessed claim, or if the Claim Dispute was incomplete, a letter will be sent to the provider indicating that the Dispute could not be processed and will need to be resubmitted.

Non-Participating Provider Claim Appeals

Non-participating providers do not have Dispute rights and will be required to submit an Appeal for any claim that the provider would like to have reconsidered. Non-contracting provider claim appeals must be submitted in writing accompanied by the Non-Participating Provider Claim Appeals form along with a completed Waiver of Liability (WOL) form within sixty (60) calendar days of the remittance advice. Both forms are available on our website at <https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/forms>.

Once complete, please mail the form, the Waiver of Liability, the claim and any supporting documentation to:

Aetna Better Health of OHIO
PO Box 818070
Cleveland, OH 44181

Corrected Claims (Participating and Non-Participating Providers)

Corrected claims that do not require a reconsideration do not require a Dispute or Appeal form. Both Participating and Non-Participating providers should follow standard corrected claim billing requirements. These claims should be coded correctly as a corrected claim and can either be submitted through ECHO Health, Inc., the provider's own clearing house, or mailed to:

Aetna Better Health of Ohio (MyCare Ohio Program)
PO Box 982966
El Paso, TX 79998-2966

Please write "RESUBMISSION" at the top of any paper claims being mailed to the address indicated to help ensure the claim is handled appropriately.

Provider Payment Appeals must be submitted in writing with the supporting documentation that they should receive a different payment under original Medicare within sixty-five (65) calendar days of the remittance advice.

If the provider remains in disagreement with the Non-Participating Provider Payment Appeal decision, the provider can submit a request in writing for the Independent Review Entity (IRE) review within one-hundred-eighty (180) calendar days of the remittance advice. The IRE will process the request within sixty (60) calendar days of receipt and will notify all parties to the appeal of their decision. If the decision is overturned, we will effectuate the decision within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of IRE's notification of decision.

Provider Grievances

Both, network and out-of-network providers, may file a complaint verbally or in writing, directly with us in regard to our policies, procedures or any aspect of our administrative functions. Providers can file a verbal grievance with us by calling **1-855-364-0974**. To file a grievance in writing, providers should write to:

Aetna Better Health of OHIO
PO Box 818070
Cleveland, OH 44181

The Grievance System Manager assumes primary responsibility for coordinating and managing provider grievances and for disseminating information to the Provider about the status of the grievance.

An acknowledgement letter will be sent within three (3) business days summarizing the grievance and will include instruction on how to:

- Revise the grievance within the timeframe specified in the acknowledgement letter
- Withdraw a grievance at any time until Grievance Committee review

If the grievance requires research or input by another department, the Grievance System Manager will forward the information to the affected department and coordinate with the affected department to thoroughly research each grievance using applicable statutory, regulatory, and contractual provisions and Aetna Better Health of Ohio’s written policies and procedures, collecting pertinent facts from all parties. The grievance, with all research, will be presented to the Grievance Committee for decision. The Grievance Committee will include a provider with the same or similar specialty if the complaint is related to a clinical issue. The Grievance Committee will consider the additional information and will resolve the complaint within forty-five (45) calendar days. The Grievance System Manager will send written notification within ten (10) calendar days of the resolution.

Provider Appeals

A provider may file an appeal, a formal request to reconsider a decision (e.g., utilization review recommendation, administrative action), with us verbally or in writing, within sixty-five (65) calendar days from the postmark on the Aetna Better Health Notice of Action. The expiration date to file an appeal is included in the Notice of Action. Providers can file a verbal appeal with us by calling **1-855-364-0974**. All verbal appeals must be followed up in writing. All written appeals should be sent to the following:

Aetna Better Health of OHIO
PO Box 818070
Cleveland, OH 44181

The Grievance System Manager assumes primary responsibility for coordinating and managing provider appeals, and for disseminating information to the provider about the status of the appeal.

An acknowledgement letter will be sent within three (3) business days summarizing the appeal and will include instruction on how to:

- Revise the appeal within the timeframe specified in the acknowledgement letter
- Withdraw an appeal at any time until Appeal Committee review

The appeal with all research will be presented to the Appeal Committee for decision. The Appeal Committee will include a provider with the same or similar specialty. The Appeal Committee will consider the additional information and will issue an appeal decision.

Management of the Process

The Appeal and Grievance Department is responsible for the management of appeals and grievances. The Appeal and Grievance Department staff reports to the Director of Operations. All data collected is reported to the appropriate quality committees which includes representation from compliance.

The Grievance System Manager has overall responsibility for the management of the enrollee Grievance System process. Responsibilities include:

- Documenting individual grievances, appeals, State Fair Hearings, IRE reviews, ALJ reviews, MAC reviews and Judicial Reviews
- Coordinating resolutions of grievances and appeals
- Tracking, trending and reporting data
- Identification of opportunities for improvement
- Ensuring complete appeal and grievance records
- Real time Quality Assurance (QA) Review

Oversight activities are the responsibility of compliance. The Compliance Department has oversight responsibility of the grievance and appeals process. This includes Monitoring for compliance with contractual obligations

Monitoring for compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements

Our Grievance System Manager will serve as the primary contact person for the grievance and appeals process.

Our Member Services Department, in collaboration with the QM Department and Provider Services Department, is responsible for informing and educating enrollees and providers about an enrollee's right to file a grievance or appeal or request an ODM State Fair Hearing, and for assisting enrollees throughout the grievance or appeal process.

Enrollees are advised of their grievance, appeal, the ODM State Fair Hearing Independent Review Entity (IRE), Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), Medicare Appeals Council (MAC) or Judicial Review rights and processes, as applicable, at the time of enrollment and at least annually thereafter. Providers receive this information via the Provider Manual, during initial provider orientation, within the Provider Agreement, and on our website.

Chapter 17 – Fraud, Waste and Abuse

Fraud and Abuse

Aetna Better Health of Ohio has an aggressive, proactive Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA) Program that complies with state and federal regulations. Our program targets areas of healthcare related fraud and abuse including internal fraud, electronic data processing fraud and external fraud. Our Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is a key element of the program. The SIU detects, investigates, and reports any suspected or confirmed cases of fraud, waste, or abuse to the appropriate state and federal agencies as mandated by Ohio Administrative Code (5101:3-1-29). During the investigation process, the confidentiality of the patient and or people referring the potential fraud and abuse case is maintained.

We use a variety of mechanisms to detect potential fraud, waste, and abuse. All key functions including Claims, Provider Services, Member Services, Medical Management, as well as providers and enrollees, share the responsibility to detect and report fraud. Review mechanisms include audits, review of provider service patterns, hotline reporting, claim review, data validation, and data analysis.

Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

Our Special Investigations Unit (SIU) conducts proactive monitoring to detect potential fraud, waste and abuse, and is responsible to investigate cases of alleged fraud, waste and abuse. With a total staff of approximately 100 individuals, the SIU is comprised of experienced, full-time Investigators; Field Fraud (claims) Analysts; a full-time, a dedicated information technology organization; and supporting management and administrative staff.

The SIU has a national toll-free fraud hotline for providers who may have questions, seek information, or want to report potential fraud, waste, or abuse. The number is 1-800-338-6361. The hotline has been acknowledged as an effective tool, and we encourage providers and contractors to use it.

To achieve its program integrity objectives, the SIU has state-of-the-art technology and systems capable of monitoring Aetna's huge volume of claims data across health product lines. To help prevent fraud, it uses advanced business intelligence software to identify providers whose billing, treatment, or enrollee demographic profiles differ significantly from those of their peers. If it identifies a case of suspected fraud, the SIU's Information Technology and investigative professionals collaborate closely, both internally with the Compliance Department, and externally with law enforcement as appropriate, to conduct in-depth analyses of case-related data.

Reporting Suspected Fraud and Abuse

Participating providers are required to report all cases of suspected fraud, waste, and abuse, inappropriate practices, and inconsistencies of which they become aware within the MyCare Ohio plan, to Aetna Better Health of Ohio.

Providers can report suspected fraud, waste or abuse in the following ways:

- By phone to the confidential Aetna Better Health of Ohio Compliance Hotline at 1-866-253-0540
- By phone to our confidential Special Investigation Unit (SIU) at 1-800-338-6361
- The Ohio Auditor of State (AOS) 1-866-FRAUD-OH or by email at: fraudohio@ohioauditor.gov

Note: If you provide your contact information, your identity will be kept confidential.

You can also report fraud to the State of Ohio Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-686-1525, or to the Federal Office of Inspector General in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477). CMS requires us to have a compliance plan that guards against potential fraud, waste and abuse under 42 C.F.R. §422.503 (b) (4) (vi), and 42 C.F.R §423.504(b) (4) (vi).

CMS combats fraud by:

- Close coordination with contractors, providers, and law enforcement agencies
- Developing MyCare Ohio plan compliance requirements that protect stakeholders
- Early detection through medical review and data analysis
- Effective education of providers, suppliers, and enrollees

A provider's best practice for preventing fraud, waste, and abuse (also applies to laboratories as mandated by 42 C.F.R. 493) is to:

- Develop a compliance program
- Monitor claims for accuracy – make certain coding reflects services provided
- Monitor medical records – make certain documentation supports services rendered
- Perform regular internal audits
- Establish effective lines of communication with colleagues and enrollees
- Ask about potential compliance issues in exit interviews
- Take action if you identify a problem
- Understand that you are ultimately responsible for claims bearing your name, regardless of whether you submitted the claim

Fraud, Waste and Abuse Defined

- **Fraud:** an intentional deception or misrepresentation made by a person with the knowledge that the deception could result in some unauthorized benefit to

him/herself or some other person. It includes any act that constitutes fraud under applicable federal or State law.

- **Waste:** over-utilization of services (not caused by criminally negligent actions) and the misuse of resources.
- **Abuse:** means provider practices that are inconsistent with sound fiscal, business, or medical practices, and result in an unnecessary cost to the Medicaid or Medicare program, or in reimbursement for services that are not medically necessary or that fail to meet professionally recognized standards for health care. It also includes beneficiary practices that result in unnecessary cost to the Medicaid and or Medicare program.

Examples of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse include:

- Charging in excess for services or supplies
- Providing medically unnecessary services
- Billing for items or services that should not be paid for by the MyCare Ohio plan
- Billing for services that were never rendered
- Billing for services at a higher rate than is actually justified
- Misrepresenting services resulting in unnecessary cost to Aetna Better Health of Ohio due to improper payments to providers or overpayments.
- Physical or sexual abuse of enrollees

Fraud, Waste and Abuse can incur risk to providers:

- Participating in illegal remuneration schemes, such as selling prescriptions.
- Switching an enrollee’s prescription based on illegal inducements rather than based on clinical needs.
- Writing prescriptions for drugs that are not medically necessary, often in mass quantities, and often for individuals that are not patients of a provider.
- Theft of a prescriber’s Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number, prescription pad, or e-prescribing login information.
- Falsifying information in order to justify coverage.
- Failing to provide medically necessary services.
- Offering enrollees a cash payment as an inducement to enroll in a specific plan.
- Selecting or denying enrollees based on their illness profile or other discriminating factors.
- Making inappropriate formulary decisions in which costs take priority over criteria such as clinical efficacy and appropriateness.
- Altering claim forms, electronic claim records, medical documentation, etc.
- Limiting access to needed services (e.g., by not referring an enrollee to an appropriate provider).
- Soliciting, offering, or receiving a kickback, bribe, or rebate (e.g., for example, paying for a referral in exchange for the ordering of diagnostic tests and other services or medical equipment).

- Billing for services not rendered or supplies not provided would include billing for appointments the enrollees fail to keep. Another example is a “multi patient” in which a provider visits a nursing home billing for 20 nursing home visits without furnishing any specific service to the enrollees.
- Double billing such as billing both the enrollee, or billing Aetna Better Health of Ohio and another enrollee.
- Misrepresenting the date services were rendered or the identity of the enrollee who received the services.
- Misrepresenting who rendered the service, or billing for a covered service rather than the non-covered service that was rendered.

Fraud, Waste and Abuse can incur risk to enrollees as well:

- Unnecessary procedures may cause injury or death.
- Falsely billed procedures create an erroneous record of the enrollee’s medical history.
- Diluted or substituted drugs may render treatment ineffective or expose the enrollee to harmful side effects or drug interactions.
- Prescription narcotics on the black market contribute to drug abuse.

In addition, enrollee fraud is also reportable, and examples include:

- Falsifying identity, eligibility, or medical condition in order to illegally receive the drug benefit.
- Attempting to use an enrollee’s ID card to obtain prescriptions when the enrollee is no longer covered under the drug benefit.
- Looping (i.e., arranging for a continuation of services under another enrollee’s ID).
- Forging and altering prescriptions.
- Doctor shopping (i.e., when an enrollee consults a number of doctors for the purpose of obtaining multiple prescriptions for narcotic painkillers or other drugs. Doctor shopping might be indicative of an underlying scheme, such as stockpiling or resale on the black market.

Elements to a Compliance Plan

An effective Compliance Plan includes seven core elements:

1. **Written Standards of Conduct:** Development and distribution of written policies and procedures that promote Aetna Better Health of Ohio’s commitment to compliance and that address specific areas of potential fraud, waste, and abuse.
2. **Designation of a Compliance Officer:** Designation of an individual and a committee charged with the responsibility and authority of operating and monitoring the compliance program.
3. **Effective Compliance Training:** Development and implementation of regular, effective education, and training.

4. Internal Monitoring and Auditing: Use of risk evaluation techniques and audits to monitor compliance and assist in the reduction of identified problem area.
5. Disciplinary Mechanisms: Policies to consistently enforce standards and address individuals or entities that are excluded from participating in the MyCare Ohio plan.
6. Effective Lines of Communication: Between the Compliance Officer and the organization’s employees, managers, directors, and enrollees of the compliance committee, as well as related entities.
 - a. Includes a system to receive, record, and respond to compliance questions, or reports of potential or actual non- compliance, while maintaining confidentiality.
 - b. Related entities must report compliance concerns and suspected or actual misconduct involving Aetna Better Health of Ohio.
7. Procedures for responding to Detected Offenses and Corrective Action: Policies to respond to and initiate corrective action to prevent similar offenses including a timely, responsible inquiry.

Relevant Laws that Apply to Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

Providers contracted with us must agree to be bound by, and comply with, all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. There are several relevant laws that apply to Fraud, Waste, and Abuse:

- The Federal False Claims Act (FCA) was created to combat fraud & abuse in government health care programs. This legislation allows the government to bring civil actions to recover damages and penalties when healthcare providers submit false claims. Penalties can include up to three times actual damages and an additional \$5,500 to \$11,000 per false claim. The False Claims Act prohibits, among other things:
 - Knowingly presenting a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval.
 - Knowingly making or using, or causing to be made or used, a false record or statement in order to have a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the government.
 - Conspiring to defraud the government by getting a false or fraudulent claim allowed or paid.
 - "Knowingly" means that a person, with respect to information: 1) has actual knowledge of the information; 2) acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information; 3) acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information.
- Self-Referral Prohibition Statute (Stark Law)
 - Prohibits providers from referring enrollees to an entity with which the provider or provider’s immediate family enrollee has a financial relationship, unless an exception applies.

- Red Flag Rule (Identity Theft Protection)
 - Requires “creditors” to implement programs to identify, detect, and respond to patterns, practices, or specific activities that could indicate identity theft.
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires:
 - Transaction standards.
 - Minimum security requirements.
 - Minimum privacy protections for protected health information.
 - National Provider Identification (NPIs) numbers.
- The Federal Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act (PFCRA), codified at 31 U.S.C. §§ 3801-3812, provides federal administrative remedies for false claims and statements, including those made to federally funded health care programs. Current civil penalties are \$5,500 for each false claim or statement, and an assessment in lieu of damages sustained by the federal government of up to double damages for each false claim for which the government makes a payment. The amount of the false claim’s penalty is to be adjusted periodically for inflation in accordance with a federal formula.
- Under the Federal Anti-Kickback statute (AKA), codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b, it is illegal to knowingly and willfully solicit or receive anything of value directly or indirectly, overtly or covertly, in cash or in kind, in return for referring an individual, or ordering or arranging for any good or service, for which payment may be made in whole or in part, under a federal health care program, including programs for children and families accessing Aetna Better Health of Ohio services through the MyCare Ohio plan.
- Under Section 6032 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA), codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(68), Aetna Better Health of Ohio providers must follow state and federal laws pertaining to civil or criminal penalties for false claims and statements, and whistleblower protections under such laws, with respect to the role of such laws in preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse in Federal health care programs, including programs for children and families accessing Aetna Better Health of Ohio services through the MyCare Ohio plan.

Administrative Sanctions

Administrative sanctions can be imposed, as follows:

- Denial or revocation of Medicare or Medicaid provider number application (if applicable)
- Suspension of provider payments
- Being added to the OIG List of Excluded Individuals/Entities database
- License suspension or revocation

Potential Civil and Criminal Penalties

- False Claims Act – For each false claim, the penalty could range from \$5,500.00 - \$11,000.00. If the government proves it suffered a loss, the provider is liable for three times the loss.

- Anti-Kickback Statute – Up to five years in prison and fines of up to \$25,000.00 for violations of the Anti-Kickback Statute. If an enrollee suffers bodily injury as a result of the scheme, the prison sentence may be 20+ years.

Remediation

Remediation may include any or all of the following:

- Education
- Administrative sanctions
- Civil litigation and settlements
- Criminal prosecution
 - Automatic disbarment
 - Prison time

Exclusion Lists

By law, we are required to check providers against the Office of the Inspector General's(OIG) Exclusion Database, the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES), the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities (LEIE), the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), and any other such databases as the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) may prescribe.

We do not participate with, or enter into any Provider Agreement with, any individual or entity that has been excluded from participation in Federal health care programs, who have a relationship with excluded providers, and/or who have been terminated from Medicaid or any programs by the ODM for fraud, waste, or abuse. The provider must agree to assist us as necessary in meeting our obligations under the contract with the ODM to identify, investigate, and take appropriate corrective action against fraud, waste, and/or abuse (as defined in 42 C.F.R. 455.2) in the provision of health care services.

Chapter 18 – Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Misappropriation of Enrollee Property

Mandated Reporters

As mandated by Ohio Revised Code Annotated Title LI Public Welfare, §§ 5101.61-72 Adult Protective Services and Ohio Revised Code Annotated Title XXXVII, Health Safety Morals, § 3721 Nursing Homes, and Residential Care Facilities, all providers who work or have any contact with an Aetna Better Health of Ohio enrollee are required, as “mandated reporters”, to report any suspected incidences of abuse, neglect, exploitation and misappropriation of an adult enrollee’s property, to the appropriate state agency.

Adults (Over 60)

Adult Protective Services (APS) is responsible for investigating reports of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of Ohioans aged sixty (60) and older. Adult Protective Services (APS) is part of each Ohio County Department of Job & Family Services (OCDJFS).

County Departments of Job and Family Services provide Adult Protective Services to the elderly who are in danger of harm, unable to protect themselves, and/or have no one else to assist them. County Departments of Job and Family Services are mandated to investigate and evaluate all reports of suspected abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults age 60 and over.

Investigations of reports alleging abuse, neglect, and exploitation are mandated to be initiated within 24 hours if any emergency exists, or within 3 working days after the report is received by the County Department of Job and Family Services. Upon completion of the investigation, the County Departments of Job and Family Services determine whether or not the adult, who is the subject of the investigation, is in need of protective services.

Social, medical, and mental health care professionals are mandated by law to immediately report suspected abuse, neglect (including self-neglect), or exploitation to the County Departments of Job and Family Services. Other mandated reporters include attorneys, peace officers, senior service providers, coroners, clergymen, and professional counselors.

Residential Health Care Facilities

As mandated by Ohio Revised Code, 340.05, a community addiction or mental health service provider that receives a complaint alleging abuse or neglect of an individual with mental illness or severe mental disability, or an individual receiving addiction services, who

resides in a residential facility as defined in division (A)(9)(b) of section 5119.34 of the Revised Code must report the complaint to the board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services serving the district in which the residential facility is located. A board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services that receives such a complaint or a report from a community addiction or mental health services provider, must report the complaint to the Director of mental health and addiction services for the purpose of the Director conducting an investigation under section 5119.34 of the Revised Code.

CMS Guidance–Nursing Home / Long-Term Care Facilities

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance on the reporting requirements for nursing homes when there are alleged violations related to mistreatment, neglect, abuse, injuries of unknown origin and misappropriation of resident property.

Federal regulations (42 C.F.R. 483.13 & 42 U.S.C. 1320b–25) and state regulations (Ohio Revised Code Ann. § 5101.61(A) – (C) require the reporting of alleged violations of abuse, mistreatment and neglect, including injuries of unknown origin, immediately to the facility administrator and in accordance with state law, to the Department of Health. Additionally, Federal regulations require that alleged violations of misappropriation of resident property be reported immediately.

Reporting timeframes are as follows:

- **Serious Bodily Injury – two (2) Hour Limit:** If the incident and/or events that cause the reasonable suspicion result in serious bodily injury to a resident, the covered individual must report the suspicion immediately, but not later than two (2) hours after forming the suspicion.
- **All Others – Within twenty-four (24) Hours:** If the incident and/or events that cause the reasonable suspicion do not result in serious bodily injury to a resident, the covered individual must report the suspicion not later than twenty-four (24) hours after forming the suspicion.

Information to Report

When reporting the incident, please be prepared to provide the following information if applicable:

- The identity of the person making the report and where he/she can be found
- The name and address of the health care facility
- The names of the operator and administrator of the facility, if known
- The name of the subject of the alleged physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect, if known
- The nature and extent of the physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect
- The date, time and specific location of the occurrence

- The names of next of kin or sponsors of the subject of the alleged physical abuse, mistreatment or neglect, if known
- Any other information which the person making the report believes would be helpful to further the purposes of this section

Reporting Agency	Suggested Reporting Timeframes	CMS Required Reporting Timeframes	Ohio Attorney General's Office	OCDJFS – Adult Protective Services
Seniors (Over Age 60) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent Elder Adults • Nursing Homes • Hospice 	Immediately and/or in writing within forty-eight (48) hours		Ohio Attorney General Complaints Hotline Phone: 1-800-282-0515 Hours: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Excluding holidays and weekends. Voice mail service will be available whenever the Hotline is closed) To report online: http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/File-a-Complaint	OCDJFS Adult Protective Services Complaints Hotline Phone: 1-614-466-6282 or view the link to find county specific information. http://jfs.ohio.gov/county/County_Directory.pdf Hours: See link above for hours of operation
Adults (Under 60)	Immediately and/or in writing within forty-eight (48) hours		Ohio Attorney General Complaints Hotline Phone: 1-800-282-0515 Hours: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Excluding holidays and weekends. Voice mail service will be available whenever the Hotline is closed) To report online: http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/File-a-Complaint	
Nursing Home / Long-Term Care Facilities		Serious Bodily Injury – immediately, but not later than two (2) hours after forming the suspicion All Others – twenty-four (24) hours after forming the suspicion	Ohio Attorney General Complaints Hotline Phone: 1-800-282-0515 Hours: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Excluding holidays and weekends. Voice mail service will be available whenever the Hotline is closed) To report online: http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/About-AG/File-a-Complaint	OCDJFS Adult Protective Services Complaints Hotline Phone: 1-614-466-6282 or view the link to find county specific information. http://jfs.ohio.gov/county/County_Directory.pdf Hours: See link above for hours of operation

After reporting the incident, concern, issue, or complaint to the appropriate agency, the provider office must notify Aetna Better Health of Ohio’s Compliance hotline at 1-866-253-0540.

Examinations to Determine Abuse or Neglect

When a State agency notifies us of a potential case of neglect and/or abuse of an enrollee, our Care Managers will work with the agency and the Primary Care Provider (PCP) to help the enrollee receive timely physical examinations for determination of abuse or neglect. In addition, we also notify the appropriate regulatory agency of the report.

Definitions

- Reasonable Cause means that, based on your observations, training and experience, you have a suspicion that a vulnerable person has been subject to abuse or neglect as described below. Significant incidents that may place a vulnerable person at risk of harm must also be reported. Reasonable cause can be as simple as doubting the explanation given for an injury.
- Immediately means “*right-away*”; however, reporting may be delayed to prevent harm (e.g., for as long as it takes to call emergency responders and/or address the need to maintain supervision.)
- Discovery comes from witnessing the situation, or when the vulnerable person or another individual comes to you and the available information indicates reasonable cause.

Examples, Behaviors and Signs

Abuse

Examples of Abuse

- Bruises (old and new)
- Burns or bites
- Pressure ulcers (Bed sores)
- Missing teeth.
- Broken Bones / Sprains
- Spotty balding from pulled hair
- Marks from restraints

Behaviors of Abusers (Caregiver and /or Family Enrollee)

- Refusal to follow directions
- Speaks for the patient
- Unwelcoming or uncooperative attitude
- Working under the influence
- Aggressive behavior

Neglect

Types of Neglect

- The intentional withholding of basic necessities and care
- Not providing basic necessities and care because of lack of experience, information, or ability

Signs of Neglect

- Malnutrition or dehydration
- Unkempt appearance; dirty or inadequate
- Untreated medical condition
- Unattended for long periods or having physical movements unduly restricted

Examples of Neglect

- Inadequate provision of food, clothing, or shelter
- Failure to attend health and personal care responsibilities, such as washing, dressing, and bodily functions

Financial Exploitation

Examples of Financial Exploitation

- Caregiver, family enrollee, or professional expresses excessive interest in the amount of money being spent on the enrollee
- Forcing enrollee to give away property or possessions
- Forcing enrollee to change a will or sign over control of assets

Chapter 19 - Forms

Par Provider Dispute Form

Participating providers may use this form to have a claim decision reconsidered.

<https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/forms>

Non-Par Provider Appeals Form

Non-participating providers who wish to appeal a claim decision must use this form.

<https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/forms>

Waiver of Liability Form

To be completed by non-contracted providers who file a claim appeal.

<https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/forms>

Pharmacy Coverage Determination Request Form

Request for Medicare prescription drug coverage.

<https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/ohio/providers/premier/partd>

Abortion Certification Form

To be completed by the provider attesting to the need for an abortion based on the criteria indicated in the form.

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Resources/Publications/Forms/ODM03197fillx.pdf>

Consent to Sterilization

A consent to sterilization to be signed by both the enrollee and the provider performing the sterilization.

<https://www.hhs.gov/opa/sites/default/files/consent-for-sterilization-english-updated.pdf>

Acknowledgment of Hysterectomy Information

An acknowledgment of information provided related to hysterectomy to be signed by both the enrollee and provider.

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Resources/Publications/Forms/ODM03199.pdf>