



Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 East Broad Street, Suite 1300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.dmas.virginia.gov

MEDICAID MEMO

TO: All Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Physicians, Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Psychologists, Clinical Psychologists, Mental Health/Mental Retardation Agencies, Substance Abuse Clinics (FAMIS), Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Psychiatric Residential Inpatient Facilities, and Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists

FROM: Patrick W. Finnerty, Director
Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

MEMO Special

DATE 12/13/2004

SUBJECT: Enrollment of Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise providers that DMAS is now enrolling licensed marriage and family therapists as Medicaid-participating providers, pursuant to legislation from the 2004 General Assembly. DMAS is accepting applications from licensed marriage and family therapists to be contracted independent providers who can bill Medicaid for psychotherapy services. Mental health clinics will also be able to bill for services provided by marriage and family therapists, if the mental health clinic has a valid Medicaid provider agreement.

Reimbursement rates for psychotherapy services may be reviewed at www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-fee_files.htm. These rates are periodically adjusted. The rates posted are the rates paid to psychiatrists. Psychologists are reimbursed 90% of the rate paid to psychiatrists. DMAS reimburses psychiatric clinical nurse specialists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists at a rate equal to 75% of the rate paid to psychologists.

To become a Virginia Medicaid provider, the therapist must be licensed by the Virginia Board of Counseling and must submit a completed provider enrollment package to First Health Services Corporation (FHSC). FHSC is the fiscal agent for Virginia's Medical Assistance Program and administers all provider enrollment functions for Virginia Medicaid. The enrollment package

can be acquired by contacting:

First Health Services – PEU
P.O. Box 26803
Richmond, VA 23261-6803
1-800-829-5373 (in-state, toll-free long distance)
1-804-270-5105 (Richmond area and out-of-state long distance)
Fax: 1-804-270-7027

This enrollment package can also be downloaded at www.dmas.virginia.gov. The enrollment package includes application instructions and other necessary information to become a Medicaid-participating provider.

After the provider enrollment application has been submitted to FHSC and the application has been reviewed, FHSC will notify the therapist if the therapist has been approved to be a Medicaid-participating provider.

If you have any questions regarding the enrollment of marriage and family therapists, please call the "HELPLINE" at the phone numbers shown below. The *Psychiatric Services* Provider Manual and the *Mental Health Clinic* Provider Manual will be updated shortly to reflect the requirements set forth in this memorandum.

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option to access information regarding Medicaid eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification information. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 800-884-9730 or 800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov. Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH Provider Manuals or click on "Medicaid Memos to Providers" to view Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet, or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order these by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.

"HELPLINE"

The "HELPLINE" is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays, to answer questions. The "HELPLINE" numbers are:

1-804-786-6273	Richmond area and out-of-state long distance
1-800-552-8627	All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance)

Please remember that the "HELPLINE" is for provider use only. Please have your Medicaid provider identification number available when you call.