



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**Mental Health Services Transmittal No. 5**  
**March 6, 2024**

**TO:** Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors  
 Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists  
 Licensed Clinical Drug and Alcohol Counselors  
 Licensed Clinical Art Therapists  
 Outpatient Mental Health Clinic Providers

**FROM:** Sandra E. Kick, Director *Sandra E. Kick*  
 Medical Benefits Management

**RE:** Medicare Coverage of Mental Health Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist Services

**NOTE:** **Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal**

Beginning January 1, 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will allow Medicare to reimburse for Mental Health Counselor (MHC) and Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) services as authorized by Sections 4121 and 4124 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023.

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) recommends eligible providers enroll with Medicare to ensure continuity of care for dually eligible beneficiaries. Since Medicare is the primary payer for these services delivered to Medicare beneficiaries, providers need to take the following actions to ensure reimbursement:

**Providers Enrolling with Medicare**

To minimize the disruption of services while awaiting Medicare enrollment, providers may continue to submit their claims to the Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (BHASO)

through June 30, 2024. During this transition period, claims submitted to Medicaid for services rendered by licensed counselors and marriage and family therapists for dually eligible beneficiaries will be recouped from the provider once they are able to submit claims to Medicare. CMS permits providers who enroll as a Medicare provider to submit claims for dates of service up to 30 days prior to their enrollment effective date.

### **Providers Not Enrolling with Medicare**

Providers who do not enroll with Medicare are responsible for transferring their dually eligible patients to a Medicare-enrolled provider and have an obligation to support their patient clinically through the transition process, as this policy takes effect July 1, 2024.

Questions regarding this change should be sent to [mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov).

### **Medicare Coverage of MHC and MFT Resources:**

Information regarding Medicare enrollment can be found at:

[https://www.cms.gov/training-education/medicare-learning-network/newsletter/2023-11-09-mlnc#\\_Toc150328743](https://www.cms.gov/training-education/medicare-learning-network/newsletter/2023-11-09-mlnc#_Toc150328743)

Frequently Asked Questions for Medicare coverage of licensed counselor services can be found at:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/marriage-and-family-therapists-and-mental-health-counselors-faq-09052023.pdf>

Specific questions regarding billing and claims should be directed to Medicare by logging in to [MyMedicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) or calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).