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To: Behavioral Health Treatment (QASP) Providers
From: IEHP Provider Relations Team
Date: June 5, 2023
Subject: REMINDER: DHCS APL 23-010 -Behavioral Health Treatment Coverage for Members Under the Age of 21

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) recently released **All Plan Letter 23-010, “Behavioral Health Treatment Coverage for Members Under the Age of 21.”**¹

This APL supersedes APL 19-014. APL 23-010 provides **updated guidance on the Plan’s primary responsibility for ensuring that all Medically Necessary Behavioral Health Treatment services for Members are met across environments including on-site, at school, or during virtual school sessions.**

Please be advised of the following articulated in [APL 23-010 \(ca.gov\)](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPsandPolicyLetters/APL2023/APL23-010.pdf):

COORDINATION OF CARE

The Plan holds Primary responsibility for ensuring that Members under the age of 21 receive all medically necessary Behavioral Health Treatment (BHT) services.

This APL sets forth **new requirements for coordination with other entities that may have overlapping responsibilities in the provision of services, including but not limited to Regional Centers, Local Educational Agency (LEA), and County Mental Health Plans.**

When another entity has overlapping responsibility to provide BHT services to the Member, the Plan must:

- ★ Assess the medical needs of the Member for BHT services across community settings, according to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) standard².
- ★ Determine what BHT services (if any) are actively being provided by other entities.
- ★ Coordinate the provision of all services including Durable Medical Equipment and medication with the other entities to ensure that the Plan and the other entities are not providing duplicative services.
- ★ Ensure that all the Member’s medical needs for BHT services are being met in a timely manner, regardless of payer, and based on the individual needs of the Member.

¹ <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPsandPolicyLetters/APL2023/APL23-010.pdf>

² <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPsandPolicyLetters/APL2023/APL23-005.pdf>

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT PLAN

DHCS provided updated guidance regarding behavioral health treatment plans. **Please review the APL in its entirety to see updated guidance.**

We look forward to providing you with more information as we continue to implement the requirements of this APL.

All communications sent by IEHP can be found at: www.iehp.org > Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Call Center at (909) 890-2054, (866) 223-4347 or email ProviderServices@iehp.org.