



PROVIDER ALERT

Alert # 1-2003-12-15 HCAYAB

HealthChoices HIPAA Standardized Code Sets Implementation

Community Care, as a managed care organization within the health care system, is required to uphold the “administrative simplification” provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) that were federally enacted in 1996 under Public Law 104-91. The provisions of this law require the integration of national, standardized procedure codes in billing for health care services.

Prior to HIPAA, behavioral health and substance abuse procedure codes were primarily developed locally by each state, reflecting the uniqueness of local health care delivery. With the implementation of the HIPAA standards, all covered entities are obligated to integrate the new uniform codes into their information technology systems.

In September, Community Care finalized and distributed to providers the crosswalk of its current HealthChoices Fee Schedules to the federally approved standardized code sets. **This alert serves as a reminder that Community Care will go live with HIPAA compliant codes on January 1, 2004 for all transactions including pre-certifications, authorizations, registrations and claims submissions and corrections.** You will be receiving a contract amendment within the next week to execute and return based on your current contract for HealthChoices products with Community Care.

There have been only **minor** changes to the fee schedule since the previous alert in September. These changes are limited to school based partial hospitalization (Allegheny County only), Provider Type 26 (Federally Qualified Health Center) and drug and alcohol residential partial hospitalization. Providers effected by these changes may call their assigned provider representative with questions; these changes will be detailed in the forthcoming contract amendment.

Please note that there have been some changes to unit duration definitions for some BHRSCA and outpatient codes. These changes are detailed in the specific provider type base fee schedules and in the training material available on the Community Care web site: www.ccbh.com.

If you have any questions, please call your assigned Provider Relations Representative, or the Provider Relations Department, at 1-888-251-2224. Thank you.