



Provider Announcement

Sept. 1, 2022

Announcement Summary: This announcement reminds providers that no changes are yet in effect regarding the end of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) and also provides a timeline for further communication.

Dear Provider,

Thank you for your continued resilience in your service to Medicaid members during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to COVID-19, the federal government and the State of Idaho both declared PHEs, and numerous federal, state and Idaho Behavioral Health Plan (IBHP) rules became suspended or altered to allow the most safe and effective care possible during the pandemic.

Optum Idaho is committed to clear, consistent and timely communication with our provider network, especially concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, numerous rules are still suspended or altered, and this is expected to continue until the federal government ends the PHE. The PHE-related changes that are currently in effect are as follows:

1. Prior authorization requirements are suspended for Skills Building/CBRS or Day Treatment.
2. Prior authorization requirements are suspended for services beyond the annual threshold amounts for Case Management, Peer Support, Youth Support, Family Support, Recovery Coaching and Extended Visits Psychotherapy.
3. The reimbursement rates for Crisis Services (90839, 90840, H0030, H2011, S9485) are currently 20% above pre-COVID levels.
4. [Certain rules](#) governing telehealth service delivery are suspended.

Optum Idaho is working with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) to determine any changes to the administration of the IBHP in a post-PHE environment. Each of the above PHE allowances may be subject to change at the end of the federal PHE.

At the time of this communication, the federal PHE will continue through Oct. 13 and is on track to be extended until mid-January 2023. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) will provide a 60-day notice prior to the conclusion of the PHE. At that time, Optum Idaho will provide further guidance.

Because the federal PHE declaration resulted in regulatory impact on Optum Idaho's administration of the IBHP, Optum Idaho will work collaboratively with the IDHW to align all applicable guidance and transition operations to a post-pandemic environment.

For any questions or concerns, please contact your local Provider Relations Advocate or email Optum Idaho Provider Relations at optum_idaho_network@optum.com.

Thank you,

The Optum Idaho team