

10/14/2022

Hello REDC Members,

Here is this week's policy update.

Story Collection on Insurance Discrimination

- Thank you to those who have submitted stories!
- Please continue to submit your stories on insurance discrimination.
- Please provide examples for a payer/plan(s) discriminatory practice in covering eating disorders care over the last three years.
- **The next batch of stories will be sent to the Department of Labor in early December.**
- Complete the survey here: <https://forms.gle/wSYoKoTN56YHGHLw9>.

SERVE ACT

Thursday, October 20 @ 10 am ET - [Military Kids and Mental Health: Tricare for Kids Proposes Solutions for Overcoming Continued Challenges to Care](#)

- As part of the Sound the Alarm for Kids campaign, next week is an action week addressing various issues in children and youth mental health.
- We have partnered with the TRICARE for Kids coalition on a mini-briefing discussing the mental health of military kids and the need for swift implementation of the SERVE Act.
- The National Military Families Association will be raising up the SERVE Act during the briefing.

TELEHEALTH

Congressional Budget Office Analysis on Pros/Cons of Telehealth

- CBO identified telehealth as one of the tools to help reduce prices paid by commercial health insurers in a recently released policy analysis.
 - The paper noted both positive and potentially negative consequences.
 - Policies that could decrease costs by regulating price growth, encouraging competition, and boosting price transparency were discussed.
 - Lowering prices paid for commercial insurance would improve financial outcomes for many privately insured patients but cautioned that physicians' pay could drop and patient access and quality care of along with it.
 - The full report can be viewed [here](#).

INSURANCE

Upcoming briefing: CPT Coding and Billing Changes for Mental Health: What to Expect for Calendar Year 2023

- The Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness, the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychiatric Association are pleased to present a webinar titled “CPT Coding and Billing Changes for Mental Health: What to Expect for Calendar Year 2023”
- The webinar is on **Thursday, October 27th, from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm ET**. [CLICK Here](#) to register
- Webinar Overview:
 - Dr. Stephen Gillaspay, PhD, Senior Director, Health & Health Care Financing, at the American Psychological Association, will lead the presentation on the policy changes proposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in the [Calendar Year 2023 Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule](#). The webinar will focus on new CPT codes as well as changes to existing codes, the expansion of outpatient Evaluation and Management (E/M) documentation guidelines to the facility setting, and other CMS proposals such as “incident to” billing that, if implemented, will have a significant impact on mental and behavioral clinicians beginning January 1, 2023.
 - Dr. Gillaspay will be joined by Ms. Becky Yowell, Director, Reimbursement Policy and Quality at the American Psychiatric Association, and Ms. Meghann Dugan-Haas, Coding and Payment Policy Officer at the American Psychological Association.
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

SUPPORT LETTERS

- The REDC co-signed a letter to the Biden Administration marking the one-year anniversary of the national emergency declaration in children’s mental health.
- The letter was led by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and the Children’s Hospital Association.
 - 134 organizations signed in support.
- The letter is attached and a press statement from the AAP can be found [here](#).

Have a great weekend!

Center Road Solutions Team