Mercy Care Provider Manual –
Chapter 100 – Mercy Care (MC) -
General Terms

Content highlighted in yellow represents changes since the last Provider Manual iteration.

MC Chapter 1 – Introduction to Mercy Care
   1.00 – Welcome
   1.01 – About Mercy Care
   1.02 – Disclaimer
   1.03 – MC Policies and Procedures
   1.04 – Eligibility
   1.05 – Hospital Presumptive Eligibility

MC Chapter 2 – Mercy Contact Information
   2.00 – Mercy Care Contact Information
   2.01 – Provider Credentialing and Contracting for all Plans
   2.02 – Health Plan Authorization Services Table
   2.03 – Community Resources Contact Information Table

MC Chapter 3 – Provider Relations Overview
   3.00 – Provider Relations Overview
MC Chapter 4 – Provider Responsibilities

4.00 - Provider Responsibilities Overview
4.01 – AHCCCS Registration
4.02 – Appointment Availability Standards
4.03 – Telephone Accessibility Standards
4.04 – Covering Physicians
4.05 – Locum Tenens
4.06 – Verifying Member Eligibility
4.07 – Preventive or Routine Services
4.08 – Well-Woman Preventative Care Service Standards
4.09 – Educating Members on their own Heath Care
4.10 – Urgent Care Services
4.11 – Emergency Services
4.12 – Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP)
4.13 – Primary Care Providers (PCPs)
4.14 – Specialist Providers
4.15 – Second Opinions
4.16 – Provider Assistance Program for Non-Compliant Members
4.17 – Member’s Medical Records
4.18 – Advance Directives
4.19 - Documenting Member Appointments
4.20 – Missed or Cancelled Appointments
4.21 – Documenting Referrals
4.22 – Respecting Member Rights
4.23 – Consent to Treat Minors or Disabled Members under Guardianship
4.24 – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1997 (HIPAA)
4.25 – Cultural Competency, Health Literacy and Linguistic Services
4.26 – Individuals with Disabilities
4.27 – Primary Care Provider (PCP) Assignments
4.28 – Plan Changes
4.29 – Cost Sharing and Coordination of Benefits
4.30 – Copayments
4.31 – Clinical Guidelines
4.32 – Office Administration Changes and Training Requirements
4.33 – Consent Forms
4.34 – Contract Additions or Terminations
4.35 – Continuity of Care
4.36 – Contract Changes or Updates
4.37 – Credentialing/Recredentialing
4.38 – Licensure and Accreditation
4.39 – Contract Enforcement
4.40 – Duty to Report Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation
4.41 – Duty to Warn
4.42 – Marketing
4.43 – Provider Policies and Procedures – Health Care Acquired Conditions and Abuse
4.44 – Mercy Care Web Portal
4.45 – Provider Directory
MC Chapter 5 – Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

5.00 – EPSDT Program Overview
5.01 – Requirements for EPSDT Providers
5.02 – Health Education
5.03 – Periodic Screenings
5.04 – Nutritional Assessment and Nutritional Therapy
5.05 – Developmental Screening Tools
5.06 – PCP Application of Fluoride Varnish
5.07 – Pediatric Immunizations/Vaccines for Children Program
5.08 – Body Mass Index (BMI)
5.09 – Blood Lead Screening
5.10 – Eye Examinations and Prescriptive Lenses
5.11 – Hearing/Speech Screening
5.12 – Behavioral Health Screening
5.13 – Dental Screening and Referrals
5.14 – Tuberculin Skin Testing
5.15 – Metabolic Medical Foods
5.16 – Arizona Early Intervention Program

MC Chapter 6 – Children’s Rehabilitative Services (CRS)

6.00 - Children’s Rehabilitative Services (CRS) Overview
6.01 - Integration Initiatives
6.02 - CRS Qualifying Medical Conditions
6.03 - Who is Eligible for CRS

MC Chapter 7 – Family Planning

7.00 – Family Planning Overview
7.01 – Provider Responsibilities for Family Planning Services
7.02 – Covered and Non-Covered Services
7.03 – Prior Authorization Requirements
MC Chapter 8 – Maternity
- 8.00 – Maternity Overview
- 8.01 – High-Risk Maternity Care
- 8.02 – OB Care Management
- 8.03 – OB Incentive Program
- 8.04 – Obstetrical Care Appointment Standards
- 8.05 – General Obstetrical Care Requirements
- 8.06 – Additional Obstetrical Physician and Practitioner Requirements
- 8.07 – Provider Requirements for Medically Necessary Termination of Pregnancy
- 8.08 – Reporting High-Risk and Non-Compliant Behaviors
- 8.09 – Outreach, Education and Community Resources
- 8.10 – Providing EPSDT Services to Pregnancy Members under Age 21
- 8.11 – Loss of AHCCCS Coverage during Pregnancy
- 8.12 – Pre-Selection of Newborn’s PCP
- 8.13 – Newborn Notification Process

MC Chapter 9 – Non-Emergency Transportation
- 9.00 – Non-Emergency Transportation
- 9.01 – Covered Services
- 9.02 – Program Specific Requirements
- 9.03 – Documentation Requirements
- 9.04 – Data and Reporting
- 9.05 – Professional Standards and Responsibilities
- 9.06 – Vehicle Requirements
- 9.07 – Performance Improvement
- 9.08 – Performance Outcome Measures
MC Chapter 10 – Behavioral Health Assessments and Treatment/Service Planning

10.00 – Behavioral Health Assessments and Service Planning Overview
10.01 – Assessments
10.02 – Minimum Elements of the Behavioral Health Assessment
10.03 – Provider Submits a Complex Case Request
10.04 – Update to Assessment and Service Plan
10.05 – Transfer Assessments

MC Chapter 11 – Care Management and Disease Management

11.00 – Care Management and Disease Management Overview
11.01 – Referrals
11.02 – Care Management
11.03 – HIV/AIDS
11.04 – High Risk OB
11.05 – Behavioral Health
11.06 – Disease Management
11.07 – Asthma
11.08 – Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
11.09 – Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
11.10 – Diabetes
11.11 – Active Health

MC Chapter 12 – Concurrent Review

12.00 – Concurrent Review Overview
12.01 – MILLIMAN Care Guidelines®
12.02 – Discharge Planning Coordination
12.03 – Physician Medical Review
MC Chapter 13 – Pharmacy Management
  13.00 – Pharmacy Management Overview
  13.01 – Updating the Preferred Drug Lists (PDLs)
  13.02 – Notification of PDL Updates
  13.03 – Prior Authorization Required
  13.04 – Over the Counter (OTC) Medications
  13.05 – Generic vs. Brand
  13.06 – Diabetic Supplies
  13.07 – Injectable Drugs
  13.08 – Exclusions
  13.09 – Family Planning Medications and Supplies
  13.10 – Behavioral Health Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Anxiety, Depression and/or Opioid Use Disorder
  13.11 – Request for Non-PDL Drugs
  13.12 – Discarded Physician-Administered Medications

MC Chapter 14 – Quality Management
  14.00 – Quality Management Overview
  14.01 – Quality Management Plan
  14.02 – Quality of Care, Peer Review and Fair Hearing Process
  14.03 – Escalation Process
  14.04 – Ambulatory Medical Record Review
  14.05 – Quality Management Studies
  14.06 – Data Collection and Reporting
  14.07 – Reports
  14.08 – Credentialing/Re-Credentialing
  14.09 – Streamlining Process
  14.10 – Incident, Accident, Death Reporting Processes
MC Chapter 15 – Partnership Requirements with Families and Family Run Organizations
  15.00 – Peer and Family Support Services
  15.01 – Incorporating Peer and Family Voice and Choice in Integrated Care

MC Chapter 16 – Referrals and Authorizations
  16.00 – Referral Overview
  16.01 – Referring Provider’s Responsibilities
  16.02 – Receiving Provider’s Responsibilities
  16.03 – Period of Referral
  16.04 – Maternity Referrals
  16.05 – Ancillary Referrals
  16.06 – Member Self-Referrals
  16.07 – Prior Authorization
  16.08 – Types of Requests
  16.09 – Medical Prior Authorization
  16.10 – Complex Radiology Service Authorization
  16.11 – Bariatric Surgery Criteria
  16.12 – Pharmacy Prior Authorization
  16.13 – Nutritional Assessment and Nutritional Therapy
  16.14 – Metabolic Medical Foods
  16.15 – Extensions and Denials
  16.16 – Prior Authorization and Referrals for Services
  16.17 – Prior Authorization and Coordination of Benefits
  16.18 – Prior Authorization Contacts
MC Chapter 17 – Billing Encounters and Claims

17.00 – Billing Encounters and Claims Overview
17.01 – When to Bill a Member
17.02 – Prior Period Coverage
17.03 – Encounter Overview
17.04 – When to File an Encounter
17.05 – How to File an Encounter
17.06 – When to File a Claim
17.07 – Timely Filing of Claim Submissions
17.08 – MC as Secondary Insurer
17.09 – Dual Eligibility MCA Cost Sharing and Coordination of Benefits
17.10 – Injuries due to an Accident
17.11 – How to File a Claim
17.12 – Correct Coding Initiative
17.13 – Correct Coding
17.14 – Incorrect Coding
17.15 – Modifiers
17.16 – Medical Claims Review
17.17 – Checking Status of Claims
17.18 – Payment of Claims
17.19 – Claim Resubmission or Reconsideration
17.20 – Overpayments
17.21 – MC General Claims Payment Information
17.22 – Inpatient Claims
17.23 – Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
17.24 – Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
17.25 – Dental Claims
17.26 – Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
17.27 – Family Planning Claims
17.28 – Complete Obstetrical Package
17.29 – Trimester of Entry into Prenatal Care
17.30 – Provider Remittance Advice
17.31 – Program Integrity
MC Chapter 18 – Fraud, Waste and Abuse

18.00 – Fraud and Abuse Overview
18.01 – Deficit Reduction Act and False Claims Act Compliance Requirements
18.02 – False Claims Training Requirements
18.03 – Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements
18.04 – State Laws Relating to Civil or Criminal Penalties or False Claims and Statements

MC Chapter 19 – Workforce Development

19.00 – General Information
19.01 – Contract Requirements
MC Chapter 1 – Introduction to Mercy Care

1.00 - Welcome
Welcome to Mercy Care (herein MC)! Our ability to provide excellent service to our members is dependent on the quality of our provider network. By joining our network, you are helping us serve those Arizonans who need us most.

1.01 - About Mercy Care
MC, when referring to all lines of business, is a not-for-profit partnership sponsored by Dignity Health and Ascension Care Management. MC is committed to promoting and facilitating quality health care services with special concern for the values upheld in Catholic social teaching, and preference for the poor and persons with special needs. Aetna Medicaid Administrators, LLC administers MC for Dignity Health and Ascension Care Management.

MC has an established, comprehensive model to accommodate service needs within the communities served. This section of the provider manual contains general requirements about MC that applies to all lines of business which all Participating Healthcare Professionals (PHPs) must adhere. Please refer to MC’s website for a listing of Forms and Provider Notifications. You can print the MC Provider Manual from your desktop by accessing our Provider Manual web page.

Effective July 1, 2018, both Mercy Care Plan and Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care came together to form one company. The new company’s name will be, simply, Mercy Care. We will also have a new logo and a new website address: www.MercyCareAZ.org.

Mercy Care includes the following lines of business:
- Mercy Care Complete Care
- Mercy Care Advantage
- Mercy Care Long Term Care
- Mercy Care RBHA
- Division of Developmental Disabilities
- KidsCare – Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Our phone number will remain the same: 602-263-3000 or 1-800-624-3879 (TTY/TDD 711).

Member benefits will remain the same.

1.02 - Disclaimer
Providers are contractually obligated to adhere to and comply with all terms of the plan and provider contract, including all requirements described in this manual in addition to all federal and state regulations governing the plan and the provider. MC may or may not specifically communicate such
terms in forms other than the contract and this provider manual. While this manual contains basic information about the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), providers are required to fully understand and apply AHCCCS requirements when administering covered services.

According to 42 CFR 438.3 - Standard Contract Requirements, it states:

AHCCCS, CMS, the Office of the Inspector General, the Comptroller General, and their designees may, at any time, inspect and audit any records or documents of MC, or its subcontractors, and may, at any time, inspect the premises, physical facilities, and equipment where Medicaid-related activities or work is conducted. The right to audit under this section exists for 10 years from the final date of the contract period or from the date of completion of any audit, whichever is later.

Please refer to the AHCCCS website for further information on AHCCCS.

To assist in providing a better understanding of the provider manual, the following definitions are being provided:

**Contractor:** An organization, or entity that has a prepaid capitated contract with AHCCCS pursuant to A.R.S. §36-2904, §36-2940, or §36-2944 to provide goods and services to members either directly or through subcontracts with providers, in conformance with contractual requirements, AHCCCS Statute and Rules, and Federal law and regulations.

**Provider:**

1) A provider of health care who agrees to furnish covered services to members;

2) A person, agency or organization with which the Contractor has contracted or delegated some of its management/administrative functions or responsibilities;

3) A person, agency or organization with a fiscal agent that has entered into a contract, agreement, purchase order or lease (or leases of real property) to obtain space, supplies, equipment or services provided under the AHCCCS agreement.

1.03 - MC Policies and Procedures

MC has robust and comprehensive policies and procedures in place throughout its departments that assure all compliance and regulatory standards are met. Policies and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and required updates made as needed.

1.04 - Eligibility

The Department of Economic Security, Social Security Administration or AHCCCS determines eligibility.

Member ID cards are generated by MC.
1.05 – Hospital Presumptive Eligibility
Based on provisions in the Affordable Care Act and effective January 1, 2015, Arizona has developed a Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) process that allows qualified hospitals to temporarily enroll persons who meet specific federal criteria for full Medicaid benefits in AHCCCS immediately. Hospitals will use special features in Arizona’s electronic application, Health-e-Arizona Plus (HEAplus), to process HPE applications.

Hospitals that choose to participate in HPE must meet performance standards for continued participation. Details about performance standards are included in the Hospital Presumptive Eligibility Agreement.

HPE provides eligible persons with temporary full Medicaid coverage. Persons who are approved for HPE may receive Medicaid services from any registered AHCCCS provider.

For additional detail regarding Hospital Presumptive Eligibility, please review AHCCCS’ Hospital Presumptive Eligibility web page.
**MC Chapter 2 – Mercy Care Contact Information**

**2.00 – Mercy Care Contact Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Plan</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
<th>Health Plan Web Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Care</td>
<td>602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879 toll-free</td>
<td><a href="http://www.MercyCareAZ.org">www.MercyCareAZ.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Internal Contact</th>
<th>Telephone Number/Fax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DD Liaison</td>
<td>Phone: 602-453-6026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Claim Disputes/Appeals | Phone: 602-453-6098 or 800-624-3879  
  Fax: 602-351-2300       |
| Referrals            | Phone: 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879  
  Fax: 844-424-3975       |
| Behavioral Health    | Phone: 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879 |
| Care Management      | Fax: 860-975-3275         |
| Medical Care Management | Phone: 602-453-8391    |
| Member Outreach Team | Phone: 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879  
  Fax: 844-745-8477       |
| Dental               | DentaQuest Phone: 844-234-9831  
  DentaQuest Web Address: [www.dentaquestgov.com](http://www.dentaquestgov.com) |
| Inpatient Hospital and Hospice Services | Fax: 800-217-9345 |
| Transplant and ETI   | Phone: 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879  
  Transplant Fax: 855-671-5914 |
  ETI Fax: 855-671-5915 |
| Newborn Notification | Phone: 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879  
  Fax: 844-525-2221       |
2.01 - Provider Credentialing and Contracting for all Plans

MC is committed to providing quality health care services to our members. And our credentialing and contracting processes help us achieve that goal.

To be eligible to join the MC and MCA networks, providers must have completed all required Arizona State licensure, certifications and AHCCCS registration. The Letter of Interest (LOI) or Letter of Contractual Changes (LOC) should be on the Provider’s letterhead or in writing.

Once approved by the MC Contract Committee; new providers will be sent a Participating Agreement (Contract). Providers making changes to an existing contract must also be approved in Contract Committee and sent a Contract Amendment.

Upon completion of credentialing and full execution of the Contract or Contract Amendment, the provider will receive notice from MC’s Contracting department with the effective date of participation, along with a copy of the fully executed agreement.

Arizona Regulatory Compliance Addendum

Providers must follow the Arizona Regulatory Compliance Addendum terms, outlined by AHCCCS, which is available on our Mercy Care Secure Web Portal and our Mercy Care RBHA Secure Web Portal under the Provider Documents section.

Scope of Work Documents

In addition to the services that every provider is expected to render within their scope of licensure, certain MCCC and Mercy RBHA providers and agencies have entered into contractual agreements to provide special programs and services which are governed by specific Scope of Work documents. These documents may be found on Mercy Care’s Provider Manual web page under Scope of Work.

Providers should refrain from scheduling and seeing MC members until notified of the participation effective date.

What to Submit to Contracting

• Letters of Interest (LOI) – Any request to participate in the Network – New Contract
• **Letter of Contractual Changes (LOC)** – Any change request to an Existing Agreement – Contract Amendments (A 90-day prior notification of effective date of changes is required)

- **Value Base Solution (VBS)** - VBS proposals or programs request

- **Contract Terminations** – Termination notification (includes loss of locations, programs and services no longer included in the contract)

- **Change of Ownership or Mergers** – All change of ownerships, mergers or stock purchases as contract are not assigned to new owners without prior approval (A 90-day prior notification of change of ownership or merger is required)

The LOI/LOC must include the following:

- AHCCCS ID number
- AZ Dept. of Health License number (if applicable)
- Medicare ID number (if applicable)
- National Provider ID (NPI) (if applicable)
- Geographic Location(s)
- Information outlining Facility, Specialty and Service Offerings
- Insurance Declaration Page(s)

Include applicable Credentialing Forms with the LOI/LOC. The Credentialing application must be submitted correctly and completely. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

- [W-9 Form](#)
- [AzAHP Facility Application](#)
- [AzAHP Practitioner Credentialing Form](#)
- [AzAHP Organizational Credentialing Form](#)

*Community Service Agencies must be credentialed and sign a letter of Intent to contract with MC prior to submitting the application for AHCCCS Registration.*

Contact information for the Mercy Care Contracting Department is as follows:

- **Email:** contractingdepartment@MercyCareAZ.org
- **Fax:** 860-975-3201
- **Phone:** 602-453-6148

If you have questions about the contracting process or to check the status of a contract, please call or email MC’s Contracting Department.

2.02 - Health Plan Authorization Services Table

*Mercy Care Prior Authorization Information*
Department | Phone Number/Fax  
---|---  
Medical Prior Authorization | Phone: 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879  
Fax: 800-217-9345  
Utilization Management | Phone: 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879  
Physical Health Admission Fax: 866-300-3926  
Behavioral Health Admission Fax: 855-825-3165  
Concurrent Review Fax: 855-773-9287  
Family Planning Prior Authorization | Phone: 602-798-2745  
Fax: 800-573-4165  

(Family planning for DES/DDD - Members should also submit their requests to the Family Planning fax number. Final approval determination will be made by the DES/DDD medical director prior to providing sterilization and pregnancy termination procedures for members enrolled in DES/DDD.)

### 2.03 - Community Resources Contact Information Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Resource</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP)</td>
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</table>
Address: 1780 W. Jefferson, Mail Drop 2HP1  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Phone: 602-532-9960, toll free in AZ 888-439-5609  
Fax: 602-200-9820  
Email: allazeip2@azdes.gov  
Website: [https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant](https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant) |
| Arizona’s Smokers Helpline (Ashline) |  
Address: P.O. Box 210482  
Tucson, AZ 85721  
Phone: 800-556-6222  
Fax: 520-318-7222  
Website: [www.ashline.org](http://www.ashline.org) |
| Arizona Women, Infants & Children (WIC) |  
Address: 150 N. 18th Avenue, Suite 310  
Phoenix, AZ 85007 |
Phone: 800-252-5942 or 800-2525-WIC
To report WIC Fraud & Abuse, call our Fraud Hotline at 866-229-6561 or email azwiccomplaints@azdhs.gov
Website: http://www.azwic.gov/

Community Information and Referral
Address: 2200 N. Central Avenue, Suite 601
          Phoenix, AZ  85004
Phone: 602-263-8856
        800-352-3792 (area codes 520 and 928)
Website: http://www.cir.org

Arizona Department of Economic Security – Aging and Adult Service
Phone: 602-542-4446
Website: https://www.azdes.gov
MC Chapter 3 – Provider Relations Overview

3.00 - Provider Relations Overview
The Provider Relations department serves as a liaison between MCCC and the provider community. They build, facilitate, and maintain professional and positive relations with the provider network, stakeholders, and community partners. They are also responsible for provider training and education, maintaining and strengthening the provider network in accordance with regulations.

Provider Training and Education includes:
- Orienting new providers to Mercy Care and how to use the Provider website
- New provider in-services within 30 days of contract effective date
- Established provider in-services
- Provider Manual overview, including how to locate manual on website
- Claims Processing Manual
- Provider Website
- Provider Portal
- Prior Authorization requirements
- Fraud, Waste and Abuse
- Behavioral Health referrals
- Specialty referrals
- Cultural Competency
- Coordination of Benefits
- Where to mail claims
- Grievances and Appeals
- Review of provider contracts and amendments
- Contractual responsibilities and contract compliance
- Provider deliverables
- Claims dashboards
- Appointment Availability and Access to Care requirements
- Provider communications, including: Provider Notifications and Provider Newsletters

Provider Relations staff may conduct face-to-face visits or use telephonic and/or electronic methods when educating and communicating with providers. Staff also assists providers with specific training needs, problem identification and resolution, claims assistance, and perform accessibility audits.
A Provider Relations Representative is assigned to each provider’s office. You may reach your representative by calling 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879. Please review our Provider Relations web page to find a listing of your assigned Provider Relations Representative along with their detailed contact information.

To meet Regulatory Compliance Standards, all provider inquiries must be acknowledged within three business days of receipt and all issues must be resolved and/or state the results communicated to the provider within 30 business days.

The Provider Relations department conducts at least two provider forums per year which providers are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the forums is to improve communications to the providers and provide training and education on new policies and/or regulations or topics of interest. In addition, Provider Relations conducts frequent webinars on specific topics or areas of concerns that providers may have. Providers will receive information regarding any upcoming forums or webinars through communication with their Provider Representative, a Provider Notification, or via the Provider website.

Please contact the Provider Relations department for:
- Recent practice or provider updates, including adding new providers to your existing practice
- Assistance in finding a participating provider or specialist
- Termination from the health plan
- Notifying the plan of changes to your practice
- Tax ID change
- Change of location
- Obtaining a Secure Portal Login ID
- Electronic Data Information, Electronic Fund Transfer, Electronic Remittance Advice
MC Chapter 4 – Provider Responsibilities

General Provider Responsibilities
4.00 - Provider Responsibilities Overview
These responsibilities are minimum requirements to comply with contract terms and all applicable laws. Providers are contractually obligated to adhere to and comply with all terms of the plan, provider contract and requirements in this manual. MC may or may not specifically communicate such terms in forms other than the contract and this manual. This section outlines general provider responsibilities; however, additional responsibilities are included throughout the manual.

Providing Member Care
4.01 - AHCCCS Registration
Each provider must first be registered with AHCCCS and obtain an AHCCCS provider ID number. This also includes non-participating providers. For additional information on registering to get an AHCCCS provider ID, please refer to the AHCCCS Provider Registration web page or our Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 8, Non-Par Provider Registration on our Claims Information web page.

4.02 - Appointment Availability Standards
Providers are required to schedule appointments for eligible members in accordance with the minimum appointment availability standards below. MC will routinely monitor compliance and seek corrective action plans, such as panel or referral restrictions, from providers that do not meet accessibility standards.

Physical Health Appointment Availability Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider Type</th>
<th>Routine Care</th>
<th>Urgent Care</th>
<th>High Risk</th>
<th>Wait Time in Office Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCP</td>
<td>Within 21 calendar days of request</td>
<td>Within 2 business days of request</td>
<td>Less than 45 minutes</td>
<td></td>
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### General Behavioral Health Appointment Standards

#### Behavioral Health Provider Appointments

- Urgent care appointments within 24 hours from identification of need.
- Routine care appointments:
  - Initial assessment within seven days of referral.
  - The first behavioral health service following the initial assessment within the timeframe indicated by the behavioral health condition, but no later than 23 days after the initial assessment.
  - All subsequent behavioral health services within the timeframe indicated by the behavioral health condition, but no later than 45 days from identification of need.

#### Referrals for Psychotropic Medications:

- Assess the urgency of the need immediately.
- If clinically indicated, provide an appointment with a Behavioral Health Medical Professional (BHMP) within a timeframe that ensures the member:
  - does not run out of needed medications; or

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Trimester – within 14 calendar days of request</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Trimester – within 7 calendar days of request</th>
<th>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Trimester – within 3 business days of request</th>
<th>Within 3 business days of identification of high risk identification</th>
<th>Less than 1 hour before or after appointment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specialist</td>
<td>Within 45 calendar days of request</td>
<td>Within 3 business days of request</td>
<td>Less than 45 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Care</td>
<td>Within 45 calendar days of request</td>
<td>Within 3 business days of request</td>
<td>Less than 45 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maternity</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Trimester – within 14 calendar days of request</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Trimester – within 7 calendar days of request</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Trimester – within 3 business days of request</td>
<td>Within 3 business days of identification of high risk identification</td>
<td>Less than 45 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Urgent/Non-Emergent Transportation</td>
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Does not decline in his/her behavioral health condition prior to starting medication, but no later than 30 calendar days from the identification of need.

**Appointment Availability Reviews**

MC is required to conduct regular appointment availability reviews to assess:

- Routine appointment availability for Primary Care, Specialist, Dental and Behavioral Health Providers;
- Urgent appointment availability for Primary Care, Specialist, Dental, and Behavioral Health providers;
- Maternity Care appointment availability related to the first, second and third trimesters, as well as high risk pregnancies;
- Routine appointment availability for Behavioral Health providers;
- Urgent appointment availability for Behavioral Health providers; and
- Behavioral Health appointments for persons in the legal custody of DCS;

**Monitoring of No-Show Rates**

Through a series of monitoring activities, MC reviews data and implements performance improvement activities to ensure the accessibility and availability of health care services including the monitoring of appointment no-show rates by provider and service type. Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) and other forms of corrective action may be taken for providers who continuously fail to meet performance expectations.

The provider is responsible for providing appropriate services so that members understand their health care needs and are compliant with prescribed treatment plans. Providers should strive to manage members and ensure compliance with medical treatment plans and with scheduled appointments. If you need assistance helping non-compliant members, Mercy Care’s Provider Assistance Program is available to you. The purpose of the program is to help coordinate and/or manage the integrated medical care for members at risk. Please submit the [Provider Assistance Program Form](#), available on our [Forms Library](#) web page, to Member Services for possible intervention.

If you are serving as the member’s PCP and elect to remove the member from your panel rather than continue to serve as the medical home, you must provide the member at least 30 days written notice prior to removal and ask the member to contact Member Services to change their PCP. The member will NOT be removed from a provider’s panel unless the provider efforts and those of the Health Plan do not result in the member’s compliance with medical
instructions. If you need more information about the Provider Assistance Program, please contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant.

4.03 - Telephone Accessibility Standards
Providers are responsible to be available during regular business hours and have appropriate after-hours coverage. Providers must have coverage 24 hours per day, seven days per week, including on-call coverage. Call coverage does not include referrals to the emergency department.

Examples of after-hours coverage that will result in follow up from MC:
- An answering machine that directs the caller to leave a message (unless the machine will then automatically page the provider to retrieve the message).
- An answering machine that directs the caller to go to the emergency department.
- An answering machine that has only a message regarding office hours, etc., without directing the caller appropriately, as outlined above.
- An answering machine that directs the caller to page a beeper number.
- No answering machine or service.
- If your answering machine directs callers to a cellular phone, it is not acceptable for charges to be directed to the caller (i.e., members should not receive a telephone bill for contacting their physician in an emergency).
- Telephones should be answered within five rings and hold time should not exceed five minutes. Callers should not get a busy signal.

4.04 - Covering Physicians
MC Provider Relations must be notified if a covering provider is not contracted or affiliated with MC. This notification must occur in advance of providing coverage and MC must provide authorization. Reimbursement to covering physicians is based on the MC Fee Schedule. The covering physician must bill under their own Tax Identification Number. Failure to notify MC of covering physician affiliations may result in claim denials and the provider may be responsible for reimbursing the covering provider.

4.05 – Locum Tenens
AHCCCS requires credentialing of individual providers or those through an organization such as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) who is contracted with a health plan. This includes the registration and credentialing of Locum Tenens.

Locum Tenens will be provisionally credentialed to expedite the credentialing process.
4.06 - Verifying Member Eligibility
All providers, regardless of contract status must verify a member’s enrollment status prior to the delivery of non-emergent, covered services. A member’s assigned provider must also be verified prior to rendering primary care services. MC will not reimburse providers for services rendered to members that lost eligibility or were not assigned to the primary care provider’s panel (unless, s/he is physician covering for a provider).

Member eligibility may be verified through one of the following ways:

Website*: [www.MercyCareAZ.org](http://www.MercyCareAZ.org). Link available on homepage or you can login to the secure website portal. *You must have a confidential password to access. To register, either contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant or fill out the Mercy Care Provider Web Portal Registration Form available in our Forms section of our website. More information is available in this Provider Manual under MC Chapter 4 – Provider Requirements, Section 4.44 - Mercy Care Web Portal.

MediFax: MediFax is an electronic product available through AHCCCS that stores key member information. It is used to verify MC member eligibility for pharmacy, dental, transportation and specialty care. In Maricopa County only, providers can request faxed documentation through Medifax EDI: 800-444-4336.

AHCCCS Interactive Voice Response (IVR): To use, dial 602-417-7200. For providers outside of Maricopa County only please dial 1-800-331-5090.

MC Telephone Verification: Use as a last resort. Call Member Services to verify eligibility at 602-263-3000. To protect member confidentiality, providers are asked for at least three pieces of identifying information such as member identification number, date of birth and address, before any eligibility information can be released. When calling MC, use the prompt for the providers.

Monthly Roster: Monthly rosters are found on the secure website portal. Contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant for more information. Note that rosters are only updated once a month. More information is available in this Provider Manual under MC Chapter 4 – Provider Requirements, Section 4.44 - Mercy Care Web Portal regarding provider rosters.
4.07 - Preventive or Routine Services

Providers are responsible for providing appropriate preventive care for eligible members. Preventive health guidelines are located on the MC website as follows:

- MCCC Member Handbook
- MCLTC Member Handbook
- Mercy RBHA Member Handbook

These preventive services include, but are not limited to:
- Age-appropriate immunizations, disease risk assessment and age-appropriate physical examinations
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Testing (EPSDT)

Provider requirements for well-woman preventative care services are included below.

Covered Services included as part of a Well-Woman Preventative Care Visit

An annual well-woman preventative care visit is intended for the identification of risk factors for disease, identification of existing medical/mental health problems, and promotion of healthy lifestyle habits essential to reducing or preventing risk factors for various disease processes. As such, the well-woman preventative care visit is inclusive of a minimum of the following:

- A physical exam (well exam) that assesses overall health.
- Clinical breast exam.
- Pelvic exam (as necessary, according to current recommendations and best standards of practice).
- Review and administration of immunizations, screenings and testing as appropriate for age and risk factors. Refer to 310-H, Health Risk Assessment and Screening Tests for further information pertaining to health risk assessments and associated screening tests.

**NOTE:** Genetic screening and testing is not covered, except as described in Chapter 300, Medical Policy for Covered Services.

- Screening and counseling are included as part of the well-woman preventive care visit and is focused on maintaining a healthy lifestyle and minimizing health risks, that addresses at a minimum the following:
  - Proper nutrition
  - Physical activity
  - Elevated BMI indicative of obesity
  - Tobacco/substance use, abuse, and/or dependency
o Depression screening
o Interpersonal and domestic violence screening, that includes counseling involving elicitation of information from women and adolescents about current/past violence and abuse, in a culturally sensitive and supportive manner to address current health concerns about safety and other current or future health problems
o Sexually transmitted infections
o Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
o Family planning counseling
o Preconception counseling that includes discussion regarding a healthy lifestyle before and between pregnancies that includes:
  - Reproductive history and sexual practices
  - Healthy weight, including diet and nutrition, as well as the use of nutritional supplements and folic acid intake
  - Physical activity or exercise
  - Oral health care
  - Chronic disease management
  - Emotional wellness
  - Tobacco and substance use (caffeine, alcohol, marijuana and other drugs), including prescription drug use
  - Recommended intervals between pregnancies

  NOTE: Preconception counseling does not include genetic testing.

- Initiation of necessary referrals when the need for further evaluation, diagnosis, and/or treatment is identified.

**4.08 - Well-Woman Preventative Care Service Standards**

**Immunizations** – MC will cover the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine for female members 11 to 26 years of age. For adult immunizations, this information is covered in the AHCCCS Policy 310-M, *Immunizations*. Providers must coordinate with The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program in the delivery of immunization services if providing vaccinations to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) aged members less than 19 years of age. Immunizations must be provided according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Schedule. (Refer to the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) where this information is included). Providers must enroll and re-enroll annually with the VFC program, in accordance with AHCCCS contract requirements in providing immunizations for EPSDT aged members less than 19 years of age and must document each EPSDT age member’s immunizations in the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS) registry.
Screenings – Information regarding screening tests is contained in the AHCCCS Policy 310-H, Health Risk Assessment and Screening Tests. Please feel free to review for further details pertaining to specific screening and limitations related to health risk assessments and associated screening tests for those members over 21 years of age. You may also refer to AHCCCS Policy 430, EPSDT Services for further details related to covered services for members less than 21 years of age.

4.09 - Educating Members on their own Health Care
MC does not restrict or prohibit providers, acting within the lawful scope of their practice, from advising or advocating on behalf of a member who is a patient for:

- the member’s health status, medical care or treatment options, including any alternative treatment that may be self-administered;
- any information the member needs to decide among all relevant treatment options;
- the risks, benefits, and consequences of treatment or non-treatment; and,
- The member’s right to participate in decisions regarding his or her behavioral health care, including the right to refuse treatment, and to express preferences about future treatment decisions.

4.10 - Urgent Care Services
While providers serve as the medical home to members and are required to adhere to the AHCCCS and MC appointment availability standards, in some cases, it may be necessary to refer members to one of MC’s contracted urgent care centers (after hours in most cases). Please reference Find a Provider/Pharmacy on MC’s website and select Urgent Care Facility in the specialty drop down list to view a list of contracted urgent care centers.

MC reviews urgent care and emergency room utilization for each provider panel. Unusual trends will be shared and may result in increased monitoring of appointment availability.

MC educates its members regarding the appropriate use of Urgent Care Services. Urgent Care Services are to be used when a member needs care right away but is not in danger of lasting harm or of loss of life. Examples of this may include medical care for:

- Flu, colds, sore throats, earaches
- Urinary tract infections
- Prescription refills or requests
- Health conditions that you have had for a long time
- Back strain
- Migraine headaches
4.11 - Emergency Services

Prior authorization is not required for emergency services. In an emergency, members should go to the nearest emergency department. Emergency medical services are provided for the treatment of an emergent physical or behavioral health condition.

MC educates its members regarding the appropriate use of Emergency Services. An emergency is a medical or behavioral health condition, including labor and delivery, which manifests itself by acute symptoms of enough severity, including severe pain, such that a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Placing the health of the person, including mental health, in serious jeopardy,
- Serious impairment of bodily functions,
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part, or
- Serious physical harm to another person. Examples of this may include:
  - Poisoning
  - Sudden chest pains - heart attack
  - Car accident
  - Convulsions
  - Very bad bleeding, especially if you are pregnant
  - Broken bones
  - Serious burns
  - Trouble breathing
  - Overdose

Non-emergency service examples are also provided under section 4.10 – Urgent Care Services and may include:

- Flu, colds, sore throats, earaches
- Urinary tract infections
- Prescription refills or requests
- Health conditions that you have had for a long time
- Back strain
- Migraine headaches

This above list is not all inclusive but only provided as examples of non-emergency care.
4.12 – Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP)
The Arizona State Board of Pharmacy Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) grants access to prescribers and pharmacists so they may review controlled substance dispensing information for patients. Access is granted to individuals only—not to clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, or any other health care facility.

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) § 36-2606 requires each medical practitioner licensed under Title 32 (i.e. MD, DO, DDS, DMD, DPM, HMD, PA, NP, ND, and OD) and who possesses a DEA license to review the preceding 12 months of a patient’s PMP record before prescribing an opioid analgesic or benzodiazepine-controlled substance listed in schedule II, III or IV.

Exceptions to reviewing a patient record are described in A.R.S. § 36-2606. Medical residents may register using the hospital DEA number and appropriate suffix.

Prescribers must register at: https://arizona.pmpaware.net/login

Please review the 2018 Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act FAQs and other important information at https://pharmacypmp.az.gov/frequently-asked-questions-faqs.

4.13 - Primary Care Providers (PCPs)
The primary role and responsibilities of primary care providers participating in MC include, but are not be limited to:

- Providing initial and primary care services to assigned members;
- Initiating, supervising, and coordinating referrals for specialty care and inpatient services and maintaining continuity of member care;
- Maintaining the member's medical record.

The PCP is responsible for rendering, or ensuring the provision of, covered preventive and primary care services to the member. These services will include, at a minimum, the treatment of routine illness, maternity services if applicable, immunizations, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services for eligible members under age 21, adult health screening services and medically necessary treatments for conditions identified in an EPSDT or adult health screening.

PCPs in their care coordination role serve as the referral agent for specialty and referral treatments and services provided to MC members assigned to them and attempt to ensure
coordinated quality care that is efficient and cost effective. Coordination responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Referring members to providers or hospitals within the MC network, as appropriate, and if necessary, referring members to out-of-network specialty providers;
- Coordinating with MC’s Prior Authorization Department about prior authorization procedures for members;
- Conducting follow-up (including maintaining records of services provided) for referral services that are rendered to their assigned members by other providers, specialty providers and/or hospitals;
- Coordinating the medical care of the MC members assigned to them, including at a minimum:
  - Oversight of drug regimens to prevent negative interactive effects;
  - Follow-up for all emergency services;
  - Coordination of inpatient care;
  - Coordination of services provided on a referral basis; and
  - Assurance that care rendered by specialty providers is appropriate and consistent with each member’s health care needs.
- The Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP) will be checked 100% of the time prior to prescribing controlled substances.

PCPs are required to, when necessary, provide care coordination which includes the referral and/or transition of members to behavioral health care who:

- Have been admitted to an inpatient hospital for a behavioral health diagnosis.
- Do not respond to treatment and therefore need additional behavioral health services such as counseling and/or more intense medication monitoring.
- Present with a behavioral health diagnosis other than ADHD, alcohol use disorder, anxiety, depression, or postpartum depression, or opioid use disorder (MAT services).
- Have experienced a sentinel event (e.g. attempted suicide, danger-to-self, danger-to-others).
- Require services outside the PCP’s scope of expertise.
- To facilitate a member’s access to behavioral health services in a timely manner, PCP’s must call MC member services for BH provider identification or coordinate with "in-network" providers directly for coordination after considering member’s clinical presentation, preferred locations, and cultural preferences. They should assist the member with scheduling an intake appointment with the identified BH provider, as necessary.
- Additionally, PCPs are responsible for the collecting of basic information about the member to determine the urgency of the situation and assist with the subsequent
scheduling of intake session within the required timeframes and with an appropriate provider. Keeping information or documents gathered in the referral process confidential and protected in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes, regulations and policies.

- Informing, as appropriate, any changes in referrals (refusing services, change in need, etc.) to referred organizations. Including notification to behavioral health providers, if known, when a member’s health status changes, medication change, or new medications are prescribed.

PCPs, in their care coordination role, serve as the referral agent for specialty and treatment services deemed medically appropriate to MC members assigned to them, and attempt to ensure coordinated quality care that is efficient and cost effective. Coordination responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Referring members to providers or hospitals within the MC network, as appropriate, and if necessary, referring members to out-of-network specialty providers;
- Coordinating with MC’s Prior Authorization Department about prior authorization procedures for members;
- Conducting follow-up (including maintaining records of services provided) for referral services that are rendered to their assigned members by other providers, specialty providers and/or hospitals;
- Coordinating the medical care of the MC members assigned to them, including at a minimum:
  - Oversight of drug regimens to prevent negative interactive effects
  - Follow-up for all emergency services
  - Coordination of inpatient care
  - Coordination of services provided on a referral basis, and
  - Assurance that care rendered by specialty providers is appropriate and consistent with each member's health care needs.

4.14 - Specialist Providers

Specialist providers are responsible for providing services in accordance with the accepted community standards of care and practices. Specialists should only provide services to members upon receipt of a written referral form from the member’s primary care provider or from another MC participating specialist. Specialists are required to coordinate with the primary care provider when members need a referral to another specialist. The specialist is responsible for verifying member eligibility prior to providing services.
When a specialist refers the member to a different specialist or provider, then the original specialist must share these records, upon request, with the appropriate provider or specialist. The sharing of the documentation should occur with no cost to the member, other specialists or other providers.

The Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP) will be checked 100% of the time prior to prescribing controlled substances.

**4.15 - Second Opinions**
A member may request a second opinion from a provider within the contracted network. The provider should make a recommendation and refer the member to another provider.

**4.16 - Provider Assistance Program for Non-Compliant Members**
The provider is responsible for providing appropriate services so that members understand their health care needs and are compliant with prescribed treatment plans. Providers should strive to manage members and ensure compliance with treatment plans and with scheduled appointments. If you need assistance helping non-compliant members, MC's Provider Assistance Program is available to you. The purpose of the program is to help coordinate and/or manage the medical care for members at risk. You may complete the Provider Assistance Program Form located on MC’s Forms website and submit it to Member Services for possible intervention.

If you elect to remove the member from your panel rather than continue to serve as the medical home, you must provide the member at least 30 days written notice prior to removal and ask the member to contact Member Services to change their provider. The member will NOT be removed from a provider’s panel unless the provider efforts and those of the Health Plan do not result in the member’s compliance with medical instructions. If you need more information about the Provider Assistance Program, please contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant.

**Documenting Member Care**

**4.17 - Member’s Medical Record**
The provider serves as the member’s “medical home” and is responsible for providing quality health care, coordinating all other medically necessary services and documenting such services in the member’s medical record. The member’s medical record must be kept in a legible, detailed, organized and comprehensive manner and must remain confidential and accessible and in accordance with applicable law to authorized persons only. The medical record will
comply with all customary medical practice, Government Sponsor directives, applicable Federal and state laws and accreditation standards.

a) **Access to Information and Records** - All medical records, data and information obtained, created or collected by the provider related to member, including confidential information must be made available electronically to MC, AHCCCS or any government agency upon request. Medical records necessary for the payment of claims must be made available to MC within fourteen (14) days of request. Clinical documentation related to payment incentives and outcomes, including all pay for performance data will be made available to MC or any government entity upon request. MC may request medical records for transitioning a member to a new health plan or provider. The medical record will be made available free of charge to MC for these purposes.

Each member is entitled to one copy of his or her medical record free of charge. Members have the right to amend or correct medical records. The record must be supplied to the member within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the request.

When a member changes PCPs, his or her medical records or copies of medical records must be forwarded to the new PCP within 10 business days from receipt of the request for transfer of the medical records.

All providers must adhere to national medical record documentation standards. Below are the minimum medical record documentation and coordination requirements. This information comes from the AHCCCS Policy 940 – Medical Records and Communication of Clinical Information contained in Chapter 900 – Quality Management and Performance Improvement Program:

- Member identification information on each page of the medical record (i.e., name or AHCCCS identification number)
- Documentation of identifying demographics including the member’s name, address, telephone number, AHCCCS identification number, gender, age, date of birth, marital status, next of kin, and, if applicable, guardian or authorized representative
- Initial history for the member that includes family medical history, social history and preventive laboratory screenings (the initial history for members under age 21 should also include prenatal care and birth history of the member’s mother while pregnant with the member)
- Past medical history for all members that includes disabilities and any previous illnesses or injuries, smoking, alcohol/substance abuse, allergies and adverse
reactions to medications, hospitalizations, surgeries and emergent/urgent care received

- Immunization records (required for children; recommended for adult members if available)
- Dental history if available, and current dental needs and/or services
- Current problem list
- Current medications
- Current and complete EPSDT forms (required for all members age 0 through 20 years)
- Documentation, initialed by the member's PCP, to signify review of:
  - Diagnostic information including:
    - Laboratory tests and screenings
    - Radiology reports
    - Physical examination notes, and
    - Other pertinent data.
- Reports from referrals, consultations and specialists
- Emergency/urgent care reports
- Hospital discharge summaries
- Behavioral health referrals and services provided, if applicable, including notification of behavioral health providers, if known, when a member’s health status changes or new medications are prescribed
- Behavioral health history
- Documentation as to whether an adult member has completed advance directives and location of the document
- Documentation related to requests for release of information and subsequent releases, and
- Documentation that reflects that diagnostic, treatment and disposition information related to a specific member was transmitted to the PCP and other providers, including behavioral health providers, as appropriate to promote continuity of care and quality management of the member’s health care.

b) Medical Record Maintenance – The provider must maintain member information and records for the longer of six (6) years after the last date provider services were provided to Member, or the period required by applicable law or Government Sponsor directions. The maintenance and access to the member medical record shall survive the termination of a Provider’s contract with MC, regardless of the cause of the termination.

c) PCP Medication Management and Care Coordination with Behavioral Health Providers - When a PCP has initiated medical management services for a member to treat a behavioral health disorder, and it is subsequently determined by the PCP or MC that the
member should receive care through the behavioral health system for evaluation and/or continued medication management services, MC will require and assist the PCP with the coordination of the referral and transfer of care through the behavioral health care management team at MC. The PCP will document in the medical record the care coordination activities and transition of care. The PCP must document the continuity of care.

The medical record contains clinical information pertaining to a member’s physical and behavioral health. Maintaining current, accurate, and comprehensive medical records assists providers in successfully treating and supporting member care.

Providers must maintain legible, signed and dated medical records in paper or electronic format that are written in a detailed and comprehensive manner, conform to good professional practices; permit effective professional review and audit processes; and facilitate an adequate system for follow-up treatment.

**Paper or Electronic Format**

Paper medical records and documentation must include:
- Date and time;
- Signature and credentials;
- Legible text written in blue or black ink or typewritten;
- Corrections with a line drawn through the incorrect information, a notation that the incorrect information was an error, the date when the correction was made, and the initials of the member altering the record. Correction fluid or tape is not allowed; and
- If a rubber-stamp signature is used to authenticate the document/entry, the individual whose signature the stamp represents is accountable for the use of the stamp.
- A progress note is documented on the date that an event occurs. Any additional information added to the progress note is identified as a late entry.

Electronic medical records and documentation must include:
- Safeguards to prevent unauthorized access:
  - The date and time of entries in a medical record as noted by the computer’s internal clock;
  - The personnel authorized to make entries using provider established policies and procedures;
  - The identity of the member making an entry; and
  - Electronic signatures to authenticate that a document is properly safeguarded and the individual whose signature is represented is accountable for the use of
Electronic medical records and systems must also:

- Ensure that the information is not altered inadvertently;
- Track when, and by whom, revisions to information are made; and
- Maintain a backup system including initial and revised information.

**Transportation Services Documentation**

- For providers that supply transportation services for members using provider employees (i.e. facility vans, drivers, etc.) the following documentation requirements apply:
  - Complete service provider’s name and address;
  - Signature and credentials of the driver who provided the service;
  - Vehicle identification (car, van, wheelchair van, etc.);
  - Member’s Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) identification number;
  - Date of service, including month day and year;
  - Address of pick up site;
  - Address of drop off destination;
  - Odometer reading at pick up;
  - Odometer reading at drop off;
  - Type of trip – round trip or one way;
  - Escort (if any) must be identified by name and relationship to the member being transported; and
  - Signature of the member, parent and/or guardian/caregiver, verifying services were rendered. If the member refuses to sign the trip validation form, then the driver should document his/her refusal to sign in the comprehensive medical record.

- For providers that use contracted transportation services, for non-emergency transport of members, that are not direct employees of the provider (i.e. cab companies, shuttle services, etc.) see Policy 201, Covered Services for a list of elements recommended for documenting non-emergency transportation services.

- It is the provider's responsibility to maintain documentation that supports each transport provided. Transportation providers put themselves at risk of recoupment of payment IF the required documentation is not maintained or covered services cannot be verified.

- MC communicates documentation standards listed under Covered and Non-Covered Services for each line of business to their contracted providers.
Disclosure of Records
All medical records, data and information obtained, created or collected by the provider related to member, including confidential information must be made available electronically to MC, AHCCCS or any government agency upon request.

When a member changes his or her PCP, the provider must forward the member’s medical record or copies of it to the new PCP within ten (10) business days from receipt of the request for transfer of the record. Medical records must be made available free of charge.

Behavioral health records must be maintained as confidential and must only be disclosed according to the following provisions:

- When requested by a member’s primary care provider (PCP) or the member’s Department of Economic Security/Division of Developmental Disabilities/Arizona Long-Term Care System (DES/DDD/ALTCS) support coordinator, the behavioral health record or copies of behavioral health record information must be forwarded within ten (10) days of the request.
- MC and subcontracted providers must provide each member who makes a request one copy of his or her medical record free of charge annually.
- MC and subcontracted providers must allow, upon request, members to view and amend their medical record as specified in 45 C.F.R. § 164.524, 164.526 and A.R.S. § 12-2293.

Health Risk Assessment for Mercy RBHA
The Health Risk Assessment (HRA) is a best practice approach and key component of Mercy RBHA. The standardized question tool puts members in the driver seat by asking them to self-report their medical, psychosocial, cognitive and functional needs. The assessment score is one of the tools used by the clinical and care management team to determine the member’s acuity level, based on the member’s perception of their health and health risks. The information provided by members via the health risk assessment, is reviewed along with data from the medical record, claims and other sources to develop a care plan. The care plan is shared with the clinical team to inform the Individual Service Plan (ISP) that provides a roadmap to the member’s recovery.

The health risk assessment shall be conducted for all members with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) by the member’s assigned clinic. Results shall be inputted into the clinic’s electronic health record (E.H.R.) and transmitted to Mercy RBHA per required specifications. Every question on the assessment is required and must be answered. Responses must be entered exactly as
shown on the tool provided by Mercy RBHA. Clinics are responsible to complete the assessment in its entirety and per the provided specifications. Failure to submit complete and accurate assessments may result in sanctions and/or corrective action.

The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services and Mercy RBHA require the health risk assessment be completed:

- Initially within 90 days of a member’s enrollment.
- Annually, within 365 days of their previous health risk assessment.
- When the member experiences a change in health status or level of care.

**Behavioral Health Record for Mercy RBHA**

For Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI), and Children (CA), the comprehensive medical record must contain the following elements:

- Intake paperwork documentation that includes:
  - For members receiving substance abuse treatment services under the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG), documentation that notice was provided regarding the member’s right to receive services from a provider to whose religious character the member does not object to (see Chapter 2.10 – Special Populations);
  - Documentation of member’s receipt of the Member Handbook and receipt of Notice of Privacy Practice; and
  - Contact information for the member’s PCP if applicable.

- Assessment documentation that includes:
  - Is there a screening and assessment for trauma in children and families?
  - Is there evidence of documentation of identification of trauma related needs and plans to address those needs (Children)?
  - For children in Child Welfare, if the member is displaying dangerous or threatening behaviors and a request for residential treatment is made by out of home placement, was the request submitted within 24 hours of request?
  - Documentation of all information collected in the behavioral health assessment, any applicable addenda completed within 45 days of intake, and required demographic information (see Chapter 2.2 – Referral and Intake Process, Chapter 2.4 – Assessment and Service Planning and Chapter 18.0 - Enrollment, Disenrollment and Other Data Submission);
  - Diagnostic information including psychiatric, psychological and medical evaluations;
  - Copies of [Notification of Members in Need of Special Assistance](#) (see Chapter 2.13 – Special Assistance for Members Determined to have a Serious Mental
Illness).
  o An English version of the assessment and/or service plan if the documents are
completed in any other language other than English; and
  o For members receiving services via telemedicine, copies of electronically
recorded information of direct, consultative or collateral clinical interviews.
  o CASII (CHILDREN ONLY)
    • The CASII is completed within the initial 45-day assessment period;
    • The CASII is completed every 6 months following the initial assessment
period;
    • The CASII has been completed in collaboration with the child/adolescent and
family and other members of the CF;
    • For children/adolescents with CASII levels of 4, 5, and 6 of service intensity,
there is a designated care manager to coordinate services and activities of
CFT practice; and
    • Based on all clinical and supporting documentation, the CASII service
intensity is appropriate to the child/adolescent’s current functioning.

### Treatment and service plans documentation that includes:
  o The member’s treatment and service plan;
  o Child and Family Team (CFT) documentation;
  o Clinically recommended service on the treatment plan are implemented within
21 days (Children);
  o Adult Recovery Team (ART) documentation; and
  o Progress reports or service plans from all other additional service providers.

### Progress notes documentation that includes:
  o Documentation of the type of services provided;
  o The diagnosis, including an indicator that clearly identifies whether the progress
note is for a new diagnosis or the continuation of a previous diagnosis. After a
primary diagnosis is identified, the member may be determined to have co-
occurring diagnoses. The service providing clinician will place the diagnosis code
in the progress note to indicate which diagnosis is being addressed during the
provider session. The addition of the progress note diagnosis code should be
included, if applicable;
  o The date the service was delivered;
  o Duration of the service (time increments) including the code used for billing the
service;
  o A description of what occurred during the provision of the service related to the
member’s treatment plan;
  o If more than one provider simultaneously provides the same service to a
member, documentation of the need for the involvement of multiple providers including the name and roles of each provider involved in the delivery of services;
  o The member’s response to service; and
  o For members receiving services via telemedicine, electronically recorded information of direct, consultative or collateral clinical interviews.

- Medical services documentation that includes:
  o Laboratory, x-ray, and other findings related to the member’s physical and behavioral health care;
  o The member’s treatment plan related to medical services;
  o Physician orders;
  o Requests for service authorizations;
  o Documentation of facility-based or inpatient care;
  o Documentation of preventative care services;
  o Medication record, when applicable; and
  o Documentation of Certification of Need (CON) and Re-Certification of Need (RON)

- Reports from other agencies that include:
  o Reports from providers of services, consultations, and specialists;
  o Emergency/urgent care reports; and
  o Hospital discharge summaries.

- Paper or electronic correspondence that includes:
  o Documentation of the provision of diagnostic, treatment, and disposition information to the PCP and other providers to promote continuity of care and quality management of the member’s health care;
  o Documentation of any requests for and forwarding of behavioral health record information.
  o The Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP) will be checked 100% of the time prior to prescribing controlled substances.

- Financial documentation that includes:
  o Documentation of the results of a completed Title XIX/XXI screening
  o Information regarding establishment of any copayments assessed, if applicable

- Legal documentation including:
  o Documentation related to requests for release of information and subsequent releases
  o Copies of any advance directives or mental health care power of attorney
    - Documentation that the adult member was provided the information on advance directives and whether an advance directive was executed;
- Documentation of authorization of any health care power of attorney that appoints a designated member to make health care decisions (not including mental health) on behalf of the member if they are found to be incapable of making these decisions;
- Documentation of authorization of any mental health care power of attorney that appoints a designated member to make behavioral health care decisions on behalf of the member if they are found to be incapable of making these decisions. Documentation of general and informed consent to treatment pursuant to General and Informed Consent and Pharmacy Management under each line of business;
- Authorization to disclose information pursuant to RBHA Chapter 13 – Contract Compliance, Section 13.00 – Confidentiality. All applicable release of Information (ROI’s) documentation to be reviewed and updated annually with the member; and,
- Any extension granted for the processing of an appeal must be documented in the case file, including the Notice regarding the extension sent to the member and his/her legal guardian or authorized representative, if applicable
- For youth in Child Welfare, documentation of verification of the Notice to Provider (Educational-Medical).

- Integrated Health Care (SMI ONLY)
  - Does documentation reflect strategies to support earlier identification and intervention that reduces the incidence and severity of serious physical, and mental illness;
  - Is use of health education and health promotion services evidenced;
  - Does documentation reflect an increased use of primary care prevention strategies;
  - Is there evidence of use of validated screening tools for early identification and intervention;
  - Evidence of focused, targeted, consultations for behavior health conditions;
  - Evidence of cross-specialty collaboration;
  - Evidence of enhanced discharge planning and follow-up care between provider visits;
  - Evidence of ongoing outcome measurement and treatment plan modification related to health promotion and prevention;
  - Evidence of care coordination through effective provider communication and management of treatment; and
  - Family and community education related to health promotion and prevention.
Medical Record Maintenance
Providers must retain the original or copies of member medical records as follows:
- For an adult, for at least six (6) years after the last date the adult member received medical or health care services from the provider; or
- For a child, either for at least three (3) years after the child’s eighteenth birthday or for at least six (6) years after the last date the adult member received medical or health care services from the provider, whichever occurs later.

The maintenance and access to the member medical record shall survive the termination of a Provider’s contract with MC, regardless of the cause of the termination.

PCP Medication Management and Care Coordination with Behavioral Health Providers
When a PCP has initiated medical management services for a member to treat depression, anxiety, and/or ADD/ADHD, and it is subsequently determined by the PCP or MC that the member should receive care through the behavioral health system for evaluation and/or continued medication management services, MC will require and assist the PCP with the coordination of the referral and transfer of care. The PCP will document in the medical record the care coordination activities and transition of care. The PCP must document the continuity of care.

Medical Record Audits
MC conducts routine medical record audits to assess compliance with established standards. Medical records may be requested when MC is responding to an inquiry on behalf of a member or provider, administrative responsibilities, and quality of care issues. Providers must respond to these requests within fourteen (14) days or in no event will the date exceed that of any government issues request date. Medical records must be made available to AHCCCS for quality review upon request. MC shall have access to medical records for assessing quality of care, conducting medical evaluations, audits, and performing utilization management functions.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) evidence-based practices include the following:
- ACT teams
- Permanent supportive housing
- Consumer-operated services
- Supported employment
It is the expectation for fidelity scores to continue to improve, with a minimum expectation of sustaining fidelity scores for all the evidence-based practices listed above.

**Reviews and self-monitoring**

In addition to participating in formal fidelity reviews, all providers are expected to:

- Participate in quality management and fidelity review processes.
- Conduct ongoing self-monitoring activities according to the self-monitoring plan outlined by each provider.
- Report quarterly on results of their self-monitoring activities.

Performance improvement activities, including but not limited to PIPS, CAPS and/or sanctions may be imposed by MC.

**Transition of Medical Records**

Transfer of the behavioral health member’s medical records, due to transitioning of the behavioral health member to a new T/RBHA and/or provider, it is important to ensure that there is minimal disruption to the behavioral health member’s care and provision of services. The behavioral health medical record must be transferred in a timely manner that ensures continuity of care.

Federal and state law allows for the transfer of behavioral health medical records from one provider to another, without obtaining the member’s written authorization if it is for treatment purposes ([45 C.F.R. § 164.502(b), 164.514(d) and A.R.S. 12-2294(C)]). Generally, the only instance in which a provider must obtain written authorization is for the transfer of alcohol/drug and/or communicable disease treatment information. Other situations may require written authorization.

The original provider must send that portion of the medical record that is necessary to the continuing treatment of the behavioral health member. In most cases, this includes all communication that is recorded in any form or medium and that relate to patient examination, evaluation or behavioral health treatment. Records include medical records that are prepared by a health care provider or other providers. Records do not include materials that are prepared in connection with utilization review, peer review or quality assurance activities, including records that a health care provider prepares pursuant to section [A.R.S. §36-441, 36-445, 36-2402 and 36-2917].

Federal privacy law indicates that the Designated Record Set (DRS) is the property of the provider who generates the DRS. Therefore; originals of the medical record are retained by the
terminating or transitioning provider in accordance with DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS of this chapter. The cost of copying and transmitting the medical record to the new provider shall be the responsibility of the transitioning provider (see the AHCCCS Contractors Operation Manual, Section 402).

Requirements for Community Service Agencies (CSA), Home Care Training to Home Care Client (HCTC) Providers and Habilitation Providers
Mercy RBHA requires that CSA, HCTC Provider and Habilitation Provider clinical records to the following standards. Each record entry must be:

- Dated and signed with credentials noted;
- Legible text, written in blue or black ink or typewritten; and
- Factual and correct.

If required records are kept in more than one location, the agency/provider shall maintain a list indicating the location of the records.

CSAs, HCTC Providers and Habilitation Providers must maintain a record of the services delivered to each behavioral health member. The minimum written requirement for each behavioral health member’s record must include:

- The service provided (including the code used for billing the service) and the time increment;
- Signature and the date the service was provided;
- The name title and credentials of the member providing the service;
- The member’s CIS identification number and AHCCCS identification number;
- Mercy RBHA conducts routine audits to ensure that services provided by the agency/provider are reflected in the behavioral health member’s service plan. CSAs, HCTC Providers and Habilitation Providers must keep a copy of each behavioral health member’s service plan in the member’s record; and
- Daily documentation of the service(s) provided and monthly summary of progress toward treatment goals.

Community Service Agency/HCTC Provider/Habilitation Provider Daily Clinical Record Documentation Form is a recommended format that may be utilized to meet the requirements identified in this chapter.
Every thirty (30) days, a summary of the information required in this chapter must be transmitted from the CSA, HCTC Provider or Habilitation Provider to the member’s clinical team for inclusion in the comprehensive clinical record.

**Adequacy and Availability of Documentation**

Mercy RBHA and subcontracted providers must maintain and store records and data that document and support the services provided to members and the associated encounters/billing for those services. In addition to any records required to comply with Mercy RBHA contracts, there must be adequate documentation to support that all billings or reimbursements are accurate, justified and appropriate.

All providers must prepare, maintain and make available to AHCCCS and Mercy RBHA, adequate documentation related to services provided and the associated encounters/billings.

Adequate documentation is electronic records and “hard-copy” documentation that can be readily discerned and verified with reasonable certainty. Adequate documentation must establish medical necessity and support all medically necessary services rendered, and the amount of reimbursement received (encounter value/billed amount) by a provider; this includes all related clinical, financial, operational and business supporting documentation and electronic records. It also includes clinical records that support and verify that the member’s assessment, diagnosis and Individual Service Plan (ISP) are accurate and appropriate and that all services (including those not directly related to clinical care) are supported by the assessment, diagnosis and ISP.

For monitoring, reviewing and auditing purposes, all documentation and electronic records must be made available at the same site at which the service is rendered. If requested documents and electronic records are not available for review at the time requested, they are considered missing. All missing records are considered inadequate. If documentation is not available due to off-site storage, the provider must submit their applicable policy for off-site storage, demonstrate where the requested documentation is stored and arrange to supply the documentation at the site within 24 hours of the original request.

Mercy RBHA’s failure to prepare, retain and provide to AHCCCS adequate documentation and electronic records for services encountered or billed may result in the recovery and/or voiding (not to be resubmitted) of the associated encounter values or payments for those services not adequately documented and/or result in financial sanctions to the provider and Mercy RBHA.
Inadequate documentation may be determined to be evidence of suspected fraud or program abuse that may result in notification or reporting to the appropriate law enforcement or oversight agency. These requirements continue to be applicable in the event the provider discontinues as an active participating and/or contracted provider as the result of a change of ownership or any other circumstance.

4.18 - Advance Directives
Providers are required to comply with federal and state law regarding advance directives for adult members. The advance directive must be prominently displayed in the adult member’s medical record. Requirements include:

- Providing written information to adult members regarding each individual’s rights under state law to make decisions regarding medical care and any provider written policies concerning advance directives (including any conscientious objections).
- Documenting in the member’s medical record whether the adult member has been provided the information and whether an advance directive has been executed.
- Not discriminating against a member because of his or her decision to execute or not execute an advance directive and not making it a condition for the provision of care.

FOR MERCY CARE LONG TERM CARE
A recent update was noted regarding the inclusion of Advance Directives and DNR availability/access monitoring in certain placement settings in the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) under section 930-2e Advance Directive. The AMPM states:

“For members in a HCBS or a behavioral health residential setting that have completed an Advance Directive, the document must be kept confidential but be readily available. For example: in a sealed envelope attached to the refrigerator.”

The rationale is that 1st responders arriving to a facility/home did not know whether there were DNR/DNI orders for an individual, and without them, they were required to perform resuscitative functions. If the DNR orders were readily available, this would help the 1st responders upon arrival.

FOR MERCY CARE RBHA
Advance directives not only identify services a member would desire if he or she becomes unable to decide, but they also:

- Promote individual treatment planning;
- Provide opportunities to create a team approach to treatment; and
- Foster recovery approaches.
The Arizona Secretary of State (www.azsos.gov) maintains a free registry called the “Arizona Advance Directive” where individuals can send advance directives for secure storage and can be accessible to individuals, loved ones and health care providers. This webpage also has other resources available on advanced directives.

If changes occur in State law regarding advance directives, adult members receiving behavioral health services must be notified by their provider regarding the changes as soon as possible, but no later than 90 days after the effective date of the change.

**Health Care Power of Attorney**
A health care power of attorney gives an adult member the right to designate another adult member to make health care treatment decisions on his or his/her behalf. The designee may make decisions on behalf of the adult member if/when he/she or he is found incapable of making these types of decisions. The designee, however, must not be a provider directly involved with the health treatment of the adult member at the time the health care power of attorney is executed.

**Behavioral Health Care Power of Attorney**
A behavioral health care power of attorney gives an adult member the right to designate another adult member to make behavioral health care treatment decisions on his or her behalf. The designee may make decisions on behalf of the adult member if/when she or he is found incapable of making these types of decisions. The designee, however, must not be a provider directly involved with the behavioral health treatment of the adult member at the time the behavioral health care power of attorney is executed.

**Power and Duties of Designee(s)**
The designee:
- May act in this capacity until his or her authority is revoked by the adult member or by court order;
- Has the same right as the adult member to receive information and to review the adult member’s medical records regarding proposed healthcare treatment and to receive, review, and consent to the disclosure of medical records relating to the adult member’s treatment;
- Must act consistently with the wishes of the adult member as expressed in the health care power of attorney or mental health care power of attorney. If, however, the adult member’s wishes are not expressed in a health care power of attorney or behavioral...
health care power of attorney and are not otherwise known by the designee, the
designee must act in good faith and consent to treatment that she or he believes to be
in the adult member’s best interest; and

- May consent to admitting the adult member to an inpatient behavioral health facility
  licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services if this authority is expressly
  stated in the behavioral health care power of attorney or health care power of attorney.

See A.R.S. §36-3283 for a complete list of the powers and duties of an agent designated under
a behavioral health care power of attorney.

Requirements for Adult Member at Time of Enrollment
At the time of enrollment, all adult members, and when the individual is incapacitated or
unable to receive information, the enrollee’s family or surrogate, must receive information
regarding (see 42 C.F.R. § 422.128):

- The member’s rights, in writing, regarding advance directives under Arizona State law;
- A description of the applicable state law and information regarding the implementation
  of these rights;
- The healthcare member’s right to file complaints directly with AHCCCS; and
- Written policies including a clear and precise statement of limitations if the provider
  cannot implement an advance directive as a matter of conscience. This statement, at a
  minimum, should:
  - Clarify institution-wide conscience objections and those of individual physicians;
  - Identify state legal authority permitting such objections; and
  - Describe the range of medical conditions or procedures affected by the
    conscience objection.

If an enrollee is incapacitated at the time of enrollment, healthcare providers may give advance
directive information to the enrollee’s family or surrogate in accordance with state law.

Healthcare providers must also follow up when the member is no longer incapacitated and
ensure that the information is given to the member directly.

Assistance for Adult Member to Develop Advance Directive
Healthcare providers must assist adult members who are interested in developing and
executing an advance directive. MC can offer the Advanced Directives, available under our
Forms web page.
Other Requirements for Health Care Providers

Healthcare providers must:

- Document in the adult member’s clinical record whether the adult member was provided the information and whether an advance directive was executed;
- Note condition provision of care or discriminate against an adult member because of his or her decision to execute or not to execute an advance directive;
- If provider is not the Primary Care Physician (PCP), provide a copy of a member’s executed advanced directive, or documentation of refusal, to the PCP for inclusion in the member’s medical record; and
- Provide education to staff on issues concerning advance directives including notification of direct care providers of services, such as home health care and personal care, of any advance directives executed by behavioral health members to whom they are assigned to provide services.

For additional resources about Advance Directives, contact Mercy Care Member Services at 800-564-5465.

4.19 - Documenting Member Appointments

When scheduling an appointment with a member over the telephone or in person (i.e. when a member appears at your office without an appointment), providers must verify eligibility and document the member’s information in the member’s medical record.

4.20 - Missed or Cancelled Appointments

Providers must:

- Document and follow-up on missed or canceled appointments.
- Notify Member Services by completing a Provider Assistance Program form located on MC’s Forms section for a member who continually misses appointments.

MC encourages providers to use a recall system. MC reserves the right to request documentation supporting follow up with members related to missed appointments. Providers may also notify MC Quality Management of missed appointments utilizing the Missed Appointment Log located in our Forms section for the QM staff to follow-up with members.

4.21 - Documenting Referrals

The provider is responsible for initiating, coordinating and documenting referrals to specialists, including dentists and behavioral health specialists within the MC organization. The provider must follow the respective practices for emergency room care, second opinion and noncompliant members.
4.22 - Respecting Member Rights
MC is always committed to treating members with respect and dignity. Member rights and responsibilities are shared with staff, providers and members each year. Member rights are incorporated herein and may be reviewed in the Member Handbook located at:

- MCCC Member Handbook
- MCLTC Member Handbook
- Mercy RBHA Member Handbook

MC member rights and responsibilities are listed below:

**Member Rights**
- Members are entitled to the name of their PCP and/or case manager.
- Members are entitled to have a copy of the MC Member Handbook, which includes a description of covered services.
- How MC provides after hours and emergency care.
- The right to file a complaint about MC.
- The right to request information about the structure and operations of MC or their subcontractors.
- How MC pays providers, controls costs and uses services. This information includes whether MC has Physician Incentive Plans (PIP) and a description of the PIP.
- The right to know whether stop loss insurance is required.
- General grievance results and a summary of member survey results.
- Member costs to get services or treatments that are not covered by MC.
- How to get services, including services requiring authorization.
- How MC evaluates new technology to include as a covered service.
- Changes to the member’s services or what action to take when a member’s PCP leaves MC.
- Members have the right to be treated fairly and get covered services without concern about race, ethnicity, national origin (to include those with limited English proficiency), religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, genetic information or ability to pay or speak English.

**Confidentiality and Privacy**
- Members have a right to privacy and confidentiality regarding their health care information.
- Members have the right to talk to health care professionals privately.
A “Privacy Rights” notice is included in the member’s welcome packet. The notice has information on ways MC uses a member’s records, which includes information their health plan activities and payments for services. Health care information will be kept private and confidential. It will be given out only with the member’s permission or if the law allows it.

Treatment Decisions

- Members have the right to agree to, or refuse, treatment and to choose other treatment options available to them. Members can get this information in a way that helps them to better understand and is appropriate to their medical condition.
- Members can choose a MC PCP to coordinate their health care.
- Members can change their PCP.
- Members can talk with their PCP to get complete and current information about their health care and condition. This will help members and their family to better understand their condition and be a part of making decisions about their health care.
- Within the limits of applicable regulations, MC staff may help manage a member’s health care by working with the member, community and state agencies, schools, their doctor.
- Members have the right to information on which procedures they will have and who will perform them.
- Members have the right to a second opinion from a qualified health care professional within the network. A second opinion can be arranged outside of the network, at no cost to the member, only if there is not adequate in-network coverage.
- Members have the right to know treatment choices or types of care available to them and the benefits and/or drawbacks of each choice.
- Members can decide who they want to be with for their treatments and exams.
- Members can have a female in the room for breast and pelvic exams.
- Member eligibility or medical care does not depend on the member’s agreement to follow a treatment plan. A member can say “no” to treatment, services or PCPs. The member will be informed about what may happen to their health if they do not have the treatment.
- MC will notify a member in writing when any health care services requested by their PCP are reduced, suspended, terminated or denied. Members must follow the instructions in the notification letter sent to them.
- Members have the right to be provided with information about creating advance directives. Advance directives tell others how to make medical decisions for the member if the member is not able to make those decisions for themselves.
Medical Records Requests

- At no cost to themselves, the member has the right to annually request and receive one copy of their medical records and/or inspect their medical records. Members may not be able to get a copy of medical records if the record includes any of the following information: psychotherapy notes put together for a civil, criminal or administrative action; protected health information that is subject to the Federal Clinical Laboratory Improvements Amendments of 1988; or protected health information that is exempt due to federal codes of regulation.
- MC will reply to the member’s request within 30 days. MC’s reply will include a copy of the requested record or a letter denying the request. The written denial letter will include the basis for the denial and information on ways to get the denial reviewed.
- Members have the right to request an amendment to their medical records. MC may ask that the member put this request in writing. If the amendment is made, whole or in part, we will take all steps necessary to do this in a timely manner and let the member know about changes that are made.
- MC has the right to deny a member’s request to amend their medical records. If the request is denied, in whole or in part, then MC will provide the member with a written denial within 60 days. The written denial includes the basis for the denial, notification of member’s right to submit a written statement disagreeing with the denial and how to file the statement.

Reporting Member Concerns

- Tell MC about any complaints or issues the member has with their health care services.
- Members may file an appeal with MC and get a decision in a reasonable amount of time.
- Members can give MC suggestions about changes to policies and services.
- Members have the right to complain about MC.
- Personal rights.
- Members have the right to be free from any form of restraint or seclusion used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience or retaliation.
- Members have the right to receive information on beneficiary and plan information.

Respect and Dignity

- Members have the right to be treated with respect and with due consideration for their dignity and privacy.
- Members have the right to participate in decisions regarding their health care, including the right to refuse treatment.
Members can get quality medical services that support their personal beliefs, medical condition and background. Members can get these services in a language they understand. Members have the right to know about other providers who speak languages other than English.

Members can get interpretation services if they do not speak English. Sign language services are available if you are deaf or have difficulty hearing. You may ask for materials in other formats or languages from MC Member Services.

The type of information about a member’s treatment is available to the member in a way that helps them have a better understanding given their medical condition.

**Members Who are Part of Division of Developmental Disabilities**

- Members have the right to get a replacement caregiver for “critical services” within two hours.

**Emergency Care and Specialty Services**

- Members can get emergency health care services without the approval of their PCP or MC when they have a medical emergency. Members may go to any hospital emergency room or other setting for emergency care.
- Members may get behavioral health services without the approval of their PCP or MC.
- Members can see a specialist with a referral from their PCP.
- Members can refuse care from a doctor they were referred to and can ask for a different doctor.
- Members may request a second opinion from another MC physician/specialist.

**4.23 – Consent to Treat Minors or Disabled Members under Guardianship**

Health care professionals and organizational providers who treat or provide services for MC members must comply with federal and state laws requiring consent for the treatment of minors or disabled members under guardianship to be HIPAA compliant.

Both participating and nonparticipating practitioners and providers are responsible for determining whether consent is needed for a service being provided to a member and must obtain appropriate consent as required. Since this involves Protected Health Information (PHI) and needs to be shared with the member’s guardian or Durable Power of Attorney, providers are required to meet all HIPPA regulations.

If during a review or audit it is discovered that appropriate consent was not attained, it will be reported to our Quality Management Department or Chief Medical Officer.
4.24 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1997 (HIPAA)
The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1997 (HIPAA) has many provisions affecting the health care industry, including transaction code sets, privacy and security provisions. HIPAA impacts what is referred to as covered entities; specifically, providers, health plans and health care clearinghouses that transmit health care information electronically. HIPAA has established national standards addressing the security and privacy of health information, as well as standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers. All Participating Health Providers (PHP) are required to adhere to HIPAA regulations. For more information about these standards, please visit the Health Information Privacy website. In accordance with HIPAA guidelines, providers may not interview members about medical or financial issues within hearing range of other patients.

4.25 - Cultural Competency, Health Literacy and Linguistic Services
As the U.S. population becomes more diverse, medical providers and other people involved in health care delivery are interacting with patients/consumers from many different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Because culture and language are vital factors in how health care services are delivered and received, it is important that health care organizations and their staff understand and respond with sensitivity to the needs and preferences that culturally and linguistically diverse patients/consumers bring to the health encounter.

Responding to Cultural and Linguistic Needs of our Members
The Institute of Medicine report Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care demonstrated that racial and ethnic minorities often receive lower-quality care than their white counterparts, even after controlling for factors such as insurance, socioeconomic status, comorbidities, and stage of presentation. Among other factors found to contribute to healthcare disparities are inadequate resources, poor patient-provider communication, a lack of culturally competent care, and inadequate linguistic access. Through the application of cultural competency knowledge and health literacy techniques, providers will help remove barriers to care.

Required Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards
The enhanced National CLAS Standards are intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by establishing a blueprint for individuals as well as health and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services. The enhanced standards are a comprehensive series of guidelines that inform, guide, and facilitate practices related to culturally and linguistically appropriate health services.

Mercy Care Provider Manual – Chapter 100 – MC - General Terms
Last Updated: June 2019
Mercy Care Requirements
The Mercy Care RBHA requires and monitors all adherence to Annual Cultural Competence plan requires adherence to all areas of the CLAS standards.

Mercy Care Acute Care and Long Term Care expect all providers to uphold all the CLAS standards and check for education/knowledge and monitor for non-compliance through the member complaint and grievance process.

CLAS Standards
Principal Standard (Standard 1): Provide effective, equitable, understandable, and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs.

Governance, Leadership, and Workforce (Standards 2-4): Provide greater clarity on the specific locus of action for each of these standards and emphasizes the importance of the implementation of CLAS as a systemic responsibility, requiring the investment, support, and training of all individuals within an organization.

Communication and Language Assistance (Standards 5-8): Provides a broader understanding and application of appropriate services to include all communication needs and services, including sign language, braille, oral interpretation, and written translation.

Engagement, Continuous Improvement, and Accountability (Standards 9-15): Underscores the importance of establishing individual responsibility in ensuring that CLAS is supported, while retaining the understanding that effective delivery of CLAS demands actions across an organization. This revision focuses on the supports necessary for adoption, implementation, and maintenance of culturally and linguistically appropriate policies and services regardless of one’s role within an organization or practice. All individuals are accountable for upholding the values and intent of the National CLAS Standards.

Language Access Services (LAS)
Providers must deliver information in a manner that is understood by the member. Mercy Care providers must comply with federal and state laws by offering interpreter and translation services, including sign language interpreters, to LEP members. MC strongly recommends the use of professional interpreters, rather than family or friends.
To comply with the LAS requirements, MC and subcontracted providers must:

- Offer language assistance to individuals who have limited English proficiency and/or other communication needs, at no cost to them, to facilitate timely access to all health care and services;
- Inform all individuals of the availability of language assistance services clearly and in their preferred language, verbally and in writing;
- Ensure the competence of individuals providing language assistance (qualified staff members must pass the ALTA Language Proficiency Test with a minimum score of 9 to interpret and bill the T1013 HCPCS code), recognizing that the use of untrained individuals and/or minors as interpreters should be avoided;
- Ensure providers identify the prevalent non-English language within provider service areas to ensure service capacity meets those needs;
- Provide easy-to-understand print and multimedia materials and signage in the languages commonly used by the populations in the service area. Have services provided in a culturally competent manner, with consideration for members with limited English proficiency or reading skills, and those with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds as well as members with visual or auditory limitations. Options include access to a language interpreter, a member proficient in sign language for the hearing impaired and written materials available in Braille for the blind or in different formats, as appropriate;
- Ensure qualified oral interpreters and bilingual staff as well as certified sign language interpreters provide access to oral interpretation, translation, sign language and disability-related services, and provide auxiliary aids and alternative formats on request. Oral interpretation and sign language services are provided at no charge to AHCCCS eligible members and members determined to have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI); and
- MC will conduct evaluations of the primary non-English languages spoken within the Geographical Service Areas (GSAs) and programs that affect cultural competence, access and quality of care.

**Accessing Oral Interpretation Services**

In accordance with [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act](https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/), Prohibition against National Origin Discrimination, and [President’s Executive Order 13166](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-13166/), Mercy Care and their subcontracted providers must make oral interpretation services available to members with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) at all points of contact. Oral interpretation services are provided at no charge to AHCCCS eligible members and Non-Title XIX/XXI members determined to have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI). Members must be provided with information instructing them how to access these services.
Voiance is the service provider contracted with Mercy Care for telephone oral interpretation services. They provide telephonic interpretation services in over 200 languages. This service is available at no cost to you or the member. To access telephone interpretation services to assist Mercy Care members who speak a language other than English call Voiance directly at the phone number in the table below.

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<th>Mercy Care RBHA Providers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinical Services:</strong> 1-877-756-4839, pin 1031</td>
<td><strong>Clinical Services:</strong> 1-877-756-4839, pin 1028;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Clinical Services:</strong> 1-877-756-4839, pin 1033</td>
<td><strong>Non-Clinical Services:</strong> 1-877-756-4839, pin 1030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The determination between clinical vs. non-clinical is made by the service location and service type. If interpretive services are occurring in a clinical setting (hospital, SMI clinic, etc.), it is considered clinical interpretation. If the interpretive service occurs in a non-clinical setting (i.e., court room, school) and for a non-clinical reason (i.e., scheduling appointment), it is considered non-clinical interpretation.

**Mercy Care RBHA Requirements**

- All Mercy RBHA providers are required to provide interpretation services for any member that requests or needs the service. (See 42 CFR 438.10, Section 601 of the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act).
- Mercy RBHA providers will contact Akorbi to provide face-to-face and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI). Further information regarding Akorbi is available in our Reference Material and Guide web page, Akorbi – Accessing Interpretive Services that is posted to our website.
- Mercy RBHA providers will contact Akorbi at their Scheduling Hotline: 480-739-9233.
- Interpretive services must be billed using the following criteria:
Interpretive Services Billing
When billing Interpretive Services, the provider must bill as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS Code</th>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1013</td>
<td></td>
<td>Qualified staff delivering services is also interpreting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1013</td>
<td>Q6</td>
<td>Separate but employed qualified staff is interpreting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1013</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>External vendor used.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accessing Interpretation Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing
Mercy Care and their subcontracted providers must adhere to the rules established by the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, in accordance with A.R.S.§ 36-1946, which covers the following:

- Classification of interpreters for the deaf and the hard of hearing based on the level of interpreting skills acquired by that member;
- Establishment of standards and procedures for the qualification and licensure of each classification of interpreters;
- Utilizing licensed interpreters for the deaf and the hard of hearing; and
- Providing auxiliary aids or licensed sign language interpreters that meet the needs of the individual upon request. Auxiliary aids include computer-aided transcriptions, written materials, assistive listening devices or systems, closed and open captioning, and other effective methods of making aurally delivered materials available to members with hearing loss.

The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing provides a listing of licensed interpreters, information on auxiliary aids and the complete rules and regulations regarding the profession of interpreters in the State of Arizona. You can review their website or contact them at 602 542-3323 (V/TTY).

Mercy Care has a TTY line in their Member Services department for members who are hearing impaired at 866-796-5598 (TTY/TDD) 711.

Translation of Written Material
Mercy Care translates written translated materials when a language is spoken by 3,000 or 10% (whichever is less) of members. Mercy Care translates all materials to all members in English and Spanish. All vital materials are translated when Mercy Care is aware that a language is
spoken by 1,000 or 5% (whichever is less) of the members. Vital materials must include at a minimum:

- Notice for denials, reductions, suspensions or termination of services;
- Service plans;
- Consent forms;
- Communications requiring a response from the healthcare member;
- Grievance notices; and
- Member Handbooks.

All written notices informing members of their right to interpretation and translation services must be translated when Mercy Care is aware that 1,000 or 5% (whichever is less) of Mercy RBHA’s members speak that language and have LEP.

Members with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), whose languages are not considered commonly encountered, are provided written notice in their primary or preferred language of the right to receive competent translation of written material.

Mercy Care provides member materials in other formats to meet specific member needs. Providers must also deliver information in a manner that is understood by the member.

**Culturally Competent Care**

To comply with the Culturally Competent Care requirements, providers must adhere to the following requirements:

- Recruit, promote, and support culturally and linguistically diverse representation within governance, leadership, and the workforce that are responsive to the population in the service area.
- Educate and train representatives within governance, leadership, and the workforce in culturally and linguistically appropriate policies and practices on an ongoing basis.
- Mercy Care RBHA Providers with direct care responsibilities must complete mandated Cultural Competency training.

**Assessment**

If the behavioral health member requests a copy of the assessment, those documents must be provided to the behavioral health member in his/her primary/preferred language. Documentation in the assessment must also be made in English; both versions must be maintained in the member’s record. This will ensure that if any members, who must review the
member’s record for purposes such as coordination of care, emergency services, auditing and program integrity, have an English version available.

Service plans specifically incorporate a member’s rights to disagree with services identified on the plan. If the plan is not in the member’s preferred language, the member has not been appropriately informed of services he/she will be provided and afforded the opportunity to exercise his/her rights when there is a disagreement.

In general, any document that requires the signature of the member, and that contains vital information such as the treatment, medications, notices, or service plans must be:

- Translated into their preferred/primary language.
- If the member or his/her guardian declines the translation, documentation of this decision must be in the member’s medical record.
- If the primary/preferred language of the behavioral health member is other than English and any of the service plans have been completed in English, the provider must ensure the service plans are translated into the behavioral health member’s primary/preferred language for his/her signature.

Mercy Care and subcontracted providers must also maintain documentation of the ISP in both the preferred/primary language as well as in English. If the member declines to have their service plan in their preferred language, the provider must document this decision in the member’s medical record.

These requirements apply also to the ITDP (Inpatient Treatment and Discharge Plan), in accordance with the 9 A.A.C. 21, Article 3.

**Organizational Supports for Cultural and Linguistic Need**

Under AHCCCS guidance, and to comply with the Organizational Supports for Cultural Competence, Mercy Care and subcontracted providers must:

- Establish culturally and linguistically appropriate goals, policies, and management accountability and infuse them throughout the organization’s planning and operations.
- Conduct ongoing assessments of the organization’s CLAS-related activities and integrate CLAS-related measures into measurement and continuous quality improvement activities.
- Partner with the community to design, implement, and evaluate policies, practices, and services to ensure cultural and linguistic appropriateness.
• Conduct regular assessments of community health assets and needs and use the results to plan and implement services that respond to the cultural and linguistic diversity of populations in the service area.
• Create conflict and grievance resolution processes that are culturally and linguistically appropriate to identify, prevent, and resolve conflicts or complaints.
• Communicate the organization’s progress in implementing and sustaining CLAS to all stakeholders, constituents, and the general public.
• Ensure the use of multi-faceted approaches to assess satisfaction of diverse individuals, families, and communities, including the identification of minority responses in the analysis of client satisfaction surveys, the monitoring of service outcomes, member complaints, grievances, provider feedback and/or employee surveys;
• Include prevention strategies by analyzing data to evaluate the impact on the network and service delivery system, with the goal of minimizing disparities in access to services and improving quality; and
• Consult with diverse groups to develop relevant communications, outreach and marketing strategies that review, evaluate, and improve service delivery to diverse individuals, families, and communities, and address disparities in access and utilization of services.

Documenting Clinical Cultural and Linguistic Need
To advance health literacy, reduce health disparities, and identify the individual’s unique needs, Mercy Care and subcontractors must:
• Collect and maintain accurate and reliable demographic data to monitor and evaluate the impact of CLAS on health equity and outcomes and to inform service delivery;
• Ensure documentation of the cultural (for example: age, ethnicity, race, national origin, sex (gender), gender identity, sexual orientation, tribal affiliation, disability) and linguistic (for example, primary language, preferred language, language spoken at home, alternative language) needs within the medical records;
• Maintain documentation within the medical record of oral interpretation services provided in a language other than English. Documentation must include the date of service, interpreter name, type of language provided, interpretation duration, and type of interpretation services provided;
• Ensure that the cultural preferences of members and their families are assessed and included in the development of treatment plans; and
• Assess the unique needs of the GSA, as communities’ cultural preferences are critical in the development of goals and strategies of prevention within documentation of cultural and linguistic need.
Cultural Competence Reporting and Accountability
Reporting and accountability measures are intended to track, monitor, and ensure access to quality and effective care. Equity in the access, delivery, and utilization of services is accomplished by Mercy Care and subcontracted providers:

- Conducting annually and ongoing strategic planning in Cultural Competency with the inclusion of national level priorities, contractual requirements, stakeholder input, community involvement and initiative development in areas, including but not limited to: Continuing Education, Training, Community Involvement, Health Integration, Outreach, Prevention, Data Analysis/Reporting, Health Literacy, and Policies/Procedures Development.

- Capturing and reporting on language access services which include linguistic needs (primary language, preferred language, language spoken at home, alternative language); interpretive services; written translation services; and maintaining documentation on how to access qualified/licensed interpreters and translators.

- Assessing and developing reports quarterly, semi-annually, and annually within the areas of cultural competency and workforce development to review the initiatives, activities, and requirements impacting diverse communities, geographical services areas (GSAs), and the individuals accessing and receiving services.

- Continuous and ongoing reporting provides insight to strengths, gaps, and needs within communities served by Mercy Care and Mercy Care subcontracted providers with a goal of health and wellness for all.

Cultural Competence Administrator
Mercy Care has a Cultural Competence Administrator who acts as a point of contact to implement and oversee compliance requirements as described in the Annual Cultural Competence Plan, Cultural Competence Policy and Procedures and Provider Manual policies, and must participate in Cultural Competence Committees.

Cultural Competence Plan
Mercy Care’s cultural competency plan is designed to address the needs of Arizona’s diverse and underserved/underrepresented populations Mercy Care develops and implements an Annual Cultural Competence Plan based on current initiatives in the field of cultural competence, with a focus on national level priorities, contractual requirements, and initiatives developed by internal and external stakeholders, including providers and experts in cultural competence. The Annual Cultural Competence Plan is submitted to the AHCCCS Cultural Competence Manager each year as required.
Annually, Mercy Care develops and/or modifies initiatives based on the identified needs of their members, with a goal of eliminating health disparities.

**Cultural Competence Reporting**
Mercy Care has developed a comprehensive service structure designed to address the needs of Arizona’s diverse populations and underserved/underrepresented populations. The following reports assist in the analysis and evaluation of the system.

- **Annual Effectiveness Review of the Cultural Competence Plan Report:**
  - Mercy Care will annually evaluate the impact of the annual cultural competence plan’s initiatives and activities towards developing a culturally competent service delivery system. The report must be submitted to the AHCCCS Cultural Competence Manager in accordance with Mercy RBHA’s contract.

- **Annual Language Services Report:** Mercy Care will submit annual reports to the AHCCCS Cultural Competence Manager. The report captures linguistic need (primary language, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, sign language services, interpretive services, and translation services) and provides comprehensive lists of interpreter language abilities and billing unit usage.
  - Language Access Plan: The Language Access Plan (LAS) helps establish a strategy to ensure meaningful access by individuals with LEP to services available to them at Mercy Care and contracted providers.

**Mercy Care RBHA Workforce Development**
Mercy Care RBHA and their subcontracted providers must:

- Ensure all staff receives training in cultural competence and culturally and linguistically appropriate services during new employee orientation;
- Provide annual training to all staff in diversity awareness and culturally relevant topics customized to meet the needs of their GSA;
- Provide continuing education in cultural competence, to include but not limited to review of CLAS standards, use of oral interpretation and translation services, and alternative formats and services for LEP clients;
- Ensure all staff has access to resources for behavioral health members with diverse cultural needs;
- Recruit, retain and promote, at all levels of the organization, a culturally competent, diverse staff and leadership;
- Maintain full compliance with all mandatory trainings; and
Develop and implement cultural-related trainings/curriculums as determined by AHCCCS, Mercy Care, Cultural Competence Committees, policies, and contract requirements.

**Laws Addressing Discrimination and Diversity**
Mercy Care and provider agencies will abide by the following referenced federal and state applicable rules, regulations and guidance documents:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.
- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin by any employer with 15 or more employees. (The Civil Rights Act of 1991 reverses in whole or in part several Supreme Court decisions interpreting Title VII, strengthening and improving the law and providing for damages in cases of intentional employment discrimination.)
- President’s Executive Order 13166 improves access to services for members with Limited English Proficiency. The Executive Order requires each Federal agency to examine the services it provides and develop and implement a system by which LEP members can meaningfully access those services consistent with, and without unduly burdening, the fundamental mission of the agency.
- State Executive Order 99-4 and President’s Executive Order 11246 mandates that all members regardless of race, color, sex, age, national origin or political affiliation shall have equal access to employment opportunities.
- The Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) prohibits employment discrimination against employees and job applicants 40 years of age or older. The ADEA applies to employers with 20 or more employees, including state and local governments. The Older Workers Benefit Protection Act (Pub. L. 101-433) amends the ADEA to prohibit employers from denying benefits to older employees.
- The Equal Pay Act (EPA) and A.R.S. 23-341 prohibit sex-based wage discrimination between men and women in the same establishment who are performing under similar working conditions.
- Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination in the employment or advancement of qualified members because of physical or mental disability for employers with federal contracts or subcontracts that exceed $10,000. All covered
contractors and subcontractors must also include a specific equal opportunity clause in each of their nonexempt contracts and subcontracts.

- The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination against members who have a disability. Providers are required to deliver services so that they are readily accessible to members with a disability. Mercy Care and their subcontracted providers who employ less than fifteen members and who cannot comply with the accessibility requirements without making significant changes to existing facilities may refer the member with a disability to other providers where the services are accessible. Mercy Care or its subcontracted provider who employs fifteen or more members is required to designate at least one member to coordinate its efforts to comply with federal regulations that govern anti-discrimination laws.

Further Information Regarding Cultural Competency

The Partnership for Clear Health Communication (PCHC) defines health literacy as the ability to read, understand and act on health information. Health literacy relates to listening, speaking, and conceptual knowledge. Health literacy plays an important role in positive patient outcomes. According to PCHC, people with low functional Health Literacy:

- Have poorer overall health status.
- Are less likely to adhere to treatment and incur a greater number of medication/treatment errors.
- Require more health-related treatment and care, including 29-69% higher hospitalization rates.
- Increase higher health care costs - health care costs as high as $7,500 more per annum for a member with limited health literacy.

In accordance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, national standards for culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services and state requirements, Mercy Care is required to ensure that Limited English Proficient (LEP) enrollees have meaningful access to health care services. Because of language differences and inability to speak or understand English, LEP members are often excluded from programs they are eligible for, experience delays or denials of services or receive care and services based on inaccurate or incomplete information.

Enrollees are to receive covered services without concern about race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, genetic information or medical history, ability to pay or ability to speak English. PHPs are required to treat all enrollees with dignity and respect, in accordance with federal law. Providers must deliver services in a culturally effective manner to all enrollees, including:
• Those with limited English proficiency (LEP) or reading skills.
• Those with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.
• The homeless.
• Individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

**Definitions**

- “Cultural and linguistic competence is a set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system, agency, or among professionals that enables effective work in cross-cultural situations. ‘Culture’ refers to integrated patterns of human behavior that include the language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions of racial, ethnic, religious, or social groups. ‘Competence’ implies having the capacity to function effectively as an individual and an organization within the context of the cultural beliefs, behaviors, and needs presented by consumers and their communities” (Based on Cross, T., Bazron, B., Dennis, K., & Isaacs, M., (1989). Towards a Culturally Competent System of Care Volume I. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Child Development Center, CASSP Technical Assistance Center)

- Health Literacy: “The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.” (Ratzan and Parker, 2000)

- Health Equities: In a report designed to increase consensus around meaning of health equity, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) provides the following definition: “Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) provides the following definition: “Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be healthier. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.”

**4.26 - Individuals with Disabilities**

Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that public accommodations, such as a physician’s office, be accessible to those with disabilities. Under the provisions of the ADA, no qualified individual with a disability may be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of services, programs or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to
discrimination by any such entity. Provider offices must be accessible to persons with disabilities. Providers must also make efforts to provide appropriate accommodations such as large print materials and easily accessible doorways.

4.27 - Primary Care Provider (PCP) Assignments
MC automatically assigns members to a provider upon enrollment. Members have the right to change their provider at any time. Member eligibility changes frequently, as a result, providers must verify eligibility prior to delivering services.

4.28 - Plan Changes
MC members generally are not allowed to change their health plan until their Annual Enrollment Choice (AEC) period, which occurs on the anniversary date of their enrollment. Only in certain circumstances may a member request a change outside of this timeframe:

- A member was entitled to freedom of choice but was not sent an auto-assignment/freedom of choice notice.
- A member was entitled to participate in an Annual Enrollment Choice but:
  - Was not sent an Annual Enrollment Choice notice or
  - Was sent an Annual Enrollment Choice notice but was unable to participate in the Annual Enrollment Choice due to circumstances beyond the member’s control.
- Family members were inadvertently enrolled with different Contractors. A member who is enrolled in a Contractor through the auto-assignment process may inadvertently be enrolled with a different Contractor than other family members. Upon receipt of notification by AHCCCS, the member who was inadvertently enrolled will be dis-enrolled from the Contractor of assignment and enrolled in the Contractor where the other family members are enrolled when AHCCCS is notified of the problem. Other family members will not be permitted to change to the Contractor to which the new member was auto-assigned. This process shall not apply if a member was afforded an enrollment choice during their Annual Enrollment Choice period.
- A member, who was enrolled with a Contractor, lost eligibility and was dis-enrolled, then was subsequently re-determined eligible and reenrolled with a different Contractor within 90 days from the date of disenrollment. In this case the member shall be reenrolled with the Contractor that the member was enrolled with prior to the loss of eligibility. If this does not occur, AHCCCS, upon notification, will enroll the member with the correct Contractor.
- Newborns will automatically be assigned to the mother’s Contractor. If the mother is Title XIX or Title XXI eligible she will be given 30 days from notification to select another Contractor for the newborn. Newborns of Federal Emergency Services (FES) mothers
will be auto assigned and the mother will be given 30 days from notification to select another Contractor.

- Adoption subsidy children will be auto-assigned and the guardian will be given 30 days from notification to select another Contractor.
- A Title XIX eligible member who is entitled to freedom of choice but becomes eligible and is auto-assigned prior to having the full choice period of 30 days will be given an opportunity to request a Contractor change following auto-assignment. The member will be given 30 days from the date of the choice letter to request a Contractor change. A member who does not select within 30 days will remain with the auto-assigned Contractor.
- A member whose eligibility category changed from Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (SOBRA) to the SOBRA Family Planning Extension Program may change to another available Contractor if their current primary care provider (PCP) will not be providing Family Planning Extension Program services.

Plan change requests may be granted based on continuity of medical care. Medical continuity of care situations are as follows:

**Medical Continuity of Prenatal Care**
A pregnant member who is enrolled with a Contractor through auto-assignment or freedom of choice, but who is receiving or has received prenatal care from a provider who is affiliated with another Contractor, may be granted a medical continuity Contractor change if the medical directors of both Contractors concur.

If there are other individuals in the pregnant member’s family who are also AHCCCS eligible and enrolled, they have the option to remain with the current Contractor or transition to the new Contractor if the medical continuity plan change is granted. The member may not return to the original Contractor or change to another Contractor after the medical continuity Contractor change has been granted except during the AEC period.

**Medical Continuity of Care**
In unique situations, Contractor changes may be approved on a case-by-case basis if necessary to ensure the member access to medical/health care.

A plan change for medical continuity is not an automatic process. The member’s PCP, or other medical provider, must provide documentation to both the receiving and relinquishing Contractors that supports the need for a Contractor change. The Contractors must be reasonable in the request for documentation. However, the burden of proof that a Contractor
change is necessary rests with the member’s medical provider. The Contractor change must be approved by both Contractor Medical Directors.

When the Medical Directors of both the receiving and relinquishing Contractors have discussed the request and have not been able to come to an agreement, the relinquishing Contractor shall submit the request to the AHCCCS Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or designee. The AHCCCS Acute Care Change of Contractor Form (Attachment A) and the supporting documentation must be sent to the AHCCCS DHCM/Medical Management Manager within 14 business days from the date of the original request.

The results of the review will be shared with both Medical Directors. The relinquishing Contractor will be responsible for issuing a final decision to the member. If the member request is denied, the relinquishing Contractor will send the member a Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination.

The plan change determination will be made by the MC medical director or designee based on information provided by the PCP.

**Contractor Responsibilities When a Contractor Change is Not Warranted**

The current Contractor has the responsibility to promptly address the member’s concerns regarding availability and accessibility of service and quality of medical care or delivery issues that may have caused a Contractor change request to be initiated. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- Quality of care delivery
- Care management responsiveness
- Transportation convenience and service availability
- Institutional care issues
- Physician or provider preference
- Physician or provider recommendation
- Physician or provider office hours
- Timing of appointments and services
- Office waiting time
- Network limitations and restrictions

When quality of care and delivery of medical service issues raised by the member cannot be solved through the normal care management process, the current Contractor must refer the issue for review by:

- The current Contractor’s Quality Management Department and/or
The AHCCCS Medical Director

Additionally, the current Contractor must explore all options available to the member, such as resolving transportation problems, provider availability issues, allowing the member to choose another PCP, or to see another medical provider, if appropriate.

Quality of care and delivery of medical services issues raised by the member must be referred to the current Contractor’s quality management staff and/or the Contractor’s Medical Director for review within one day of the Contractor’s receipt/notification of the problem.

The delivery of covered services remains the responsibility of the current Contractor if a Contractor change for medical continuity of prenatal or other medical care is not approved.

The current Contractor must notify the member, in writing, that a Contractor change is not warranted. If the Contractor change request was the result of a member concern, the notice must include the Contractor’s resolution of this concern. The notice must also advise the member of the AHCCCS and Contractor grievance policy and include timeframes for filing a grievance.

Contractors may reach an agreement with an out-of-network provider, to care for the member on a temporary basis, for the members’ period of illness and/or pregnancy to provide continuity of care.

**Relinquishing Contractor Responsibilities**

If a member contacts the current Contractor, verbally or in writing, and states that the reason for the plan change request is due to situations outlined above, the relinquishing Contractor shall advise the member to telephone the AHCCCS Verification Unit at 602-417-7000 or 800-962-6690 for AHCCCS to process the change.

If the member contacts the relinquishing Contractor, verbally or in writing, to request a plan change for medical continuity of care, the following steps must be taken:

- The relinquishing Contractor will contact the receiving Contractor to discuss the request. If a plan change is indicated for medical continuity of care, the AHCCCS Contractor Change Request Form (Attachment A) must be completed. All the members to be affected are added to the form and the form signed by the medical directors or physician designees of both Contractors. When the AHCCCS Contractor Change Request Form is signed it is to be submitted to the AHCCCS Chief Medical Officer.
To facilitate continuity of prenatal care for the member, Contractors shall sign off and forward the AHCCCS Contractor Change Request Form to the AHCCCS Chief Medical Officer within two business days of the member’s Contractor change request. The timeframe for other continuity of care issues is 10 business days.

The AHCCCS Chief Medical Officer will review the Contractor change documentation and forward to the Communications Center for processing.

**Receiving Contractor Responsibilities**
The member must be transitioned within the requirements and protocols outlined in AHCCCS’ ACOM Policy 402 and in AMPM Chapter 500.

**Member Responsibilities**
The member shall request a change of Contractor directly from AHCCCS only for situations defined in above. The member shall direct all other Contractor change requests to the member’s current Contractor.

**AHCCCS Administration Responsibilities**
The AHCCCS Administration shall process change of Contractor requests listed above and shall send notification of the change via the daily recipient roster to the relinquishing and receiving Contractors. It is the Contractor’s responsibility to identify members from the daily recipient roster who are leaving the Contractor.

If the AHCCCS Administration denies a change of Contractor request, the AHCCCS Administration will send the member a denial letter. The member will be given 60 days to file a grievance.

If the AHCCCS Administration receives a letter or verbal request from a member requesting a Contractor change, that also references other problems (i.e., transportation, accessibility or availability of services), that information will be sent to the current Contractor.

If the AHCCCS Administration receives a letter or verbal request from a member requesting a Contractor change for reasons above, the information will be forwarded to the current Contractor.

**Provider Guidelines and Plan Details**

4.29 - Cost Sharing and Coordination of Benefits

Providers must adhere to all contract and regulatory cost sharing guidelines. When a member has other health insurance such as Medicare, a Medicare HMO or a commercial carrier, MC will
coordinate payment of benefits in accordance with the terms of the PHPs contract and federal and state requirements. AHCCCS registered providers must coordinate benefits for all MC members in accordance with the terms of their contract and AHCCCS guidelines.

MC is the payer of last resort, unless specifically prohibited by State or Federal law. This means that MC shall be used as a source of payment for covered services only after all other sources of payment have been exhausted. MC will take reasonable measures to identify potentially legally liable third-party sources and reports these to AHCCCS.

MC coordinates benefits in accordance with AHCCCS regulations so that costs for services that would otherwise be payable by MC are cost avoided or recovered from a liable third party. The two methods used for coordination of benefits are cost avoidance and post-payment recovery.

**Cost Avoidance**

MC will take reasonable measures to determine all legally liable parties - any individual, entity or program that is or may be potentially liable to pay all or part of the expenditures for covered services. MC will cost avoid a claim if it has established the probable existence of a liable party at the time the claim is filed. For purposes of cost avoidance, establishing probably liability takes place when MC receives confirmation that another party is, by statute, contract, or agreement, legally responsible for the payment of a claim for a healthcare item or service delivered to a member. If the probable existence of a party’s liability cannot be established, MC will adjudicate the claim for payment. MC will then utilize post-payment recovery which is described in further detail below if it turns out a legally liable party is responsible for the payment of covered services.

If a third-party insurer other than Medicare requires the member to pay any copayment, coinsurance or deductible, MC is responsible for making these payments.

Claims for an inpatient stay for labor, delivery and postpartum care, including professional fees when there is no global OB package, will be cost avoided by MC.

In addition, effective for dates of services on or after October 1, 2018, prenatal care for pregnant women, including services which are part of a global OB Package, will also be cost avoided.

MC shall not deny a claim for timely filing if the untimely claim submission results from a provider’s efforts to determine the extent of liability.
Post Payment Recoveries

Post-payment recovery is necessary in cases where MC has not established the probable existence of a liable third party at the time services were rendered or paid for, was unable to cost-avoid, or post-payment recovery is required. In these instances, MC will adjudicate the claim and then utilize post-payment recovery processes which include: Pay and Chase, Retroactive Recoveries Involving Commercial Insurance Payer Sources, and Other Third-Party Liability Recoveries.

Pay and Chase: MC will pay the full amount of the claim due per the contracted rate with the provider and then seek reimbursement from any third party if the claim is for the following reasons:

- Prenatal care for pregnant women, including services which are part of a global OB Package;
- Preventive pediatric services, including Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) and administration of vaccines to children under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program;
- Services covered by third-party liability that are derived from an absent parent whose obligation to pay support is being enforced by the Division of Child Support Enforcement; or
- Services for which MC fails to establish the existence of a liable third party at the time the claim is filed.

Retroactive Recoveries Involving Commercial Insurance Payer Sources: For a period of two years from the date of service, MC will engage in retroactive third-party recovery efforts for claims paid to determine if there are commercial insurance payer sources that were not known at the time of payment. In the event a commercial insurance payer source is identified, MC Care will seek recovery from the commercial insurance. **MC will not recoup related payments from providers, requiring providers to act, or requiring the involvement of providers in any way.**

MC has two years from the date of service to recover payments for a claim, or to identify claims having a reasonable expectation of recovery. A reasonable expectation of recovery is established when MC has affirmatively identified a commercial insurance payer source and has begun the process of recovering payment. After two years from the date of service, AHCCCS will direct recovery efforts for any claims not identified by MC.
The overall timeframe for submission of claims for recovery is limited to three years from the date of service.

**Other Third-Party Liability Recoveries:** MC will identify the existence of potentially liable parties using a variety of methods, including referrals, and data mining using trauma code edits, utilizing codes provided by AHCCCS. MC shall not pursue recovery in the following circumstances, unless the case has been referred to MC by AHCCCS or AHCCCS’ authorized representative:

- Motor Vehicle Cases
- Other Casualty Cases
- Tort feasors
- Restitution Recoveries
- Worker’s Compensation Cases

MC works directly with AHCCCS regarding Other Third-Party Liability Recoveries.

**4.30 - Copayments**

**Collecting Copayments**

Copayments must be assessed and collected consistent with state law and Arizona Administrative Code requirements. Providers are responsible for collecting copayments. Providers may take reasonable steps to collect on delinquent accounts.

Any copayments collected are retained by the provider, but the provider must report that information to Mercy RBHA when submitting the encounter/claims data. All providers must report in their annual audited financial statements the separately identified amounts for copayments received from eligible members for covered behavioral health services and reported to AHCCCS in the encounter.

The collection of copayments is an administrative process, and as such, copayments must not be collected in conjunction with a member’s treatment. All efforts to resolve non-payment issues, as they occur, must be clearly documented in the member’s comprehensive clinical record.

**Copayments**

Copayments are specified dollar amounts members pay directly to a provider for each item or service they receive. There are federal limits for certain services and populations.
Copayments are never charged to the following members:

- Children under age 19;
- People determined to be Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) by the Arizona Department of Health Services;
- Individuals up through age 20 eligible to receive services from the Children's Rehabilitative Services program;
- People who are acute care AHCCCS members and who are residing in nursing homes or residential facilities such as an Assisted Living Home and only when the acute care member’s medical condition would otherwise require hospitalization. The exemption from copayments for acute care members is limited to 90 days in a contract year;
- People who are enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS);
- People who are eligible for Medicare Cost Sharing in 9 A.A.C. 29 Copayment;
- People who receive hospice care;
- American Indian members who are active or previous users of the Indian Health Service, tribal health programs operated under P.L. 93-638, or urban Indian health programs;
- Adults eligible under A.A.C. R9-22-1427(E). These individuals are known as the Adult Group. Members in the Adult Group are individuals 19-64, who are not pregnant, do not have Medicare and are not eligible in any other eligibility category and whose income does not exceed 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The adult group includes individuals who were previously eligible under the AHCCCS Care program with income that did not exceed 100% of the FPL as well as other adults described in A.A.C. R9-22-1427(E) with income above 100% FPL but not greater than 133% FPL;
- Individuals in the Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment Program; and
- Individuals receiving child welfare services under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act because of being a child in foster care or receiving adoption or foster care assistance under Title IV-E.

**NOTE:** Copayments referenced in this chapter means copayments charged under Medicaid (AHCCCS). It does not mean a member is exempt from Medicare copayments.

Copayments are never charged for the following services for anyone:

- Inpatient hospital services and services in the Emergency Department;
- Emergency services;
- Family Planning services and supplies;
- Pregnancy related health care and health care for any other medical condition that may complicate the pregnancy, including tobacco cessation treatment for pregnant women;
- Preventative services such as well visits, immunizations, pap smears, colonoscopies, and mammograms;
- Services paid on a fee-for-service basis;
- Provider Preventable Conditions as described in the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual, Chapter 1000.

Members with nominal (optional) copayments are:
- Caretaker relatives under R9-22-1427(A) (also known as AHCCCS for Families with Children under section 1931 of the Social Security Act);
- Individuals eligible under the Young Adult Transitional Insurance (YATI) for young adults who were in foster care;
- Individuals eligible for the State Adoption Assistance for Special Needs Children who are being adopted;
- Individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) through the Social Security Administration for people who are age 65 or older, blind or disabled;
- Individuals receiving SSI Medical Assistance Only (SSI MAO) for individuals who are age 65 or older, blind or disabled; and
- Individual in the Freedom to Work (FTW) program.

Provider needs to look up the member’s eligibility to find out what copays they may have by going to Mercy Care Web Portal or Mercy Care RBHA’s Web Portal. Most people who get AHCCCS benefits are asked to pay the following nominal copayments for medical services:

### Mandatory Copayments for Certain AHCCCS Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominal Copay Amounts for Some Medical Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescriptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-patient services for physical, occupational and speech therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor or other provider outpatient office visits for evaluation and management of your care</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members with higher income who are determined eligible for AHCCCS through the Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) program will have mandatory copayments for some medical services. TMA members are described in AHCCCS rule R9-22-1427(B).
When a member has a mandatory copayment, a provider can refuse to provide a service to a member who does not pay the mandatory copayment. A provider may choose to waive or reduce any copayment under this chapter. TMA members are not charged copayments if they are in a population or category listed in the above sections.

**Mandatory copayments for TMA members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Copayment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescriptions</td>
<td>$2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor or other provider outpatient office visits for evaluation and management of care. This excludes emergency room/emergency department visits</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient non-emergent or voluntary surgical procedures. This excludes emergency room/emergency department visits</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**5% Aggregate limit for nominal (optional) and mandatory copayments**

The total aggregate number of copayments for members who have nominal (optional) and/or mandatory copayments cannot exceed 5% of the family’s income on a quarterly basis. The AHCCCS Administration will review claims and encounters information to establish when a member’s copayment obligation has reached 5% of the family’s income and will communicate this information to providers. The member may also establish that the aggregate limit has been met on a quarterly basis by providing the AHCCCS Administration with records of copayments incurred during the quarter.

**Copayments for Non-Title XIX/XXI eligible members determined to have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI)**

AHCCCS Copayments for Non-Title XIX/XXI eligible members who are determined to have a Serious Mental Illness (SMI):
- For individuals who are Non-Title XIX/XXI eligible members determined to have a SMI, AHCCCS has established a copayment to be charged to these members for covered
services (A.R.S. 36-3409).

- Copayment requirements in this policy are not applicable to services funded by the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG), Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) or Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) federal block grant.
- Copayments are not assessed for crisis services or collected at the time crisis services are provided.
- Members determined to have SMI must be informed prior to the provision of services of any fees associated with the services (R9-21-202(A) (8)), and providers must document such notification to the member in his/her comprehensive clinical record.
- Copayments assessed for Non-Title XIX/XXI members determined to have SMI are intended to be payments by the member for all covered behavioral health services, but copayments are only collected at the time of the psychiatric assessment and psychiatric follow up appointments.
- Copayments are:
  - A fixed dollar amount of $3;
  - Applied to in network services; and
  - Collected at the time services are rendered.
- Providers will be responsible for collecting copayments. Any copayments collected are reported in the encounter.

Providers will:
- Assess the fixed dollar amount per service received, regardless of the number of units encountered. Collect the $3 copayment at the time of the psychiatric assessment or the psychiatric follow up appointment.
- Take reasonable steps to collect on delinquent accounts, as necessary.
- Collect copayments as an administrative process, and not in conjunction with a member’s behavioral health treatment.
- Clearly document in the member’s comprehensive clinical record all efforts to resolve non-payment issues, as they occur.
- Not refuse to provide or terminate services when an individual states he or she is unable to pay copayments described in this section. Mercy RBHA has established methods to encourage a collaborative approach to resolve non-payment issues, which may include the following:
  - Engage in informal discussions and avoid confrontational situations;
  - Re-screen the member for AHCCCS eligibility; and
  - Present other payment options, such as payment plans or payment deferrals, and discuss additional payment options as requested by the member.
Other Payment Sources
If a member has third party liability coverage, MC and their providers must follow the requirements for third party liability.

Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage
All members eligible for Medicare Part A or enrolled in Medicare Part B are eligible for Medicare Part D Prescription Drug coverage. Dual eligible members (eligible for Medicaid and Medicare) no longer receive prescription drug coverage through Medicaid. To access Medicare Part D coverage, members must enroll in either a Prescription Drug Plan (PDP – fee-for-service Medicare) or a Medicare Advantage-Prescription Drug Plan (MA-PD – managed care Medicare).

Cost sharing responsibilities for members in a Medicare Part D PDP or MA-PD
The Medicare Part D Prescription Drug standard coverage includes substantial cost sharing requirements, which include monthly premiums; an annual deductible and co-insurance (see the Part D Voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit Program Benefits and Costs for People with Medicare).

Members with limited income and resources may be eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) or “extra help” program (see the Social Security Administration for income and resource requirements). With this “extra help”, all or a portion of the member’s cost sharing requirements are paid for by the federal government. Dual eligible members on a Medicare Savings Program through AHCCCS (QMB, SLMB, or QI-1) are automatically eligible for the LIS program. Other members must apply for the LIS program. Title XIX/XXI funds are not available to pay any cost sharing of Medicare Part D. Mercy RBHA may utilize Non-Title XIX/XXI funds for cost sharing of Medicare Part D copayments for Non-Title XIX/XXI members determined to have SMI.

4.31 - Clinical Guidelines
To help provide MC members with consistent, high-quality care that utilizes services and resources effectively, we have chosen certain clinical guidelines to help our providers. These are treatment protocols for specific conditions as well as preventive health guidelines.

Please note that these guidelines are intended to clarify standards and expectations. They should not:

- Come before a provider’s responsibility to provide treatment based on the member’s individual needs.
- Constitute procedures for or the practice of medicine by the party distributing the guidelines.
Guarantee coverage or payment for the type or level of care proposed or provided.

FOR MERCY CARE RBHA
Mercy RBHA has outlined our clinical guidelines on our Clinical Guidelines web page.

Behavioral health clinical guidelines can also be found on the AHCCCS website under Clinical Guidance Tools.

There are minimum expectations for SMI clinical teams to include the following individuals:

**Supportive/Connective Level of Care**
- 1 Psychiatrist (BHMP)
- 1 Registered Nurse
- 1 Rehabilitation Specialist
- 1 Peer Support Specialist
- 1 Clinical Coordinator (Team Leader)
- Care Managers (amount based on established clinical targets and maximum ceiling)

**ACT Level of Care**
- 1 Psychiatrist (BHMP)
- 2 Registered Nurses
- 1 ACT Specialist
- 2 Substance Abuse Specialists
- 1 Independent Living Specialist
- 1 Peer Support Specialist
- 1 Housing Specialist
- 1 Rehabilitation Specialist
- 1 Employment Specialist
- 1 Program Assistant
- 1 Clinical Coordinator (Team Leader)

In addition to already instated state licensure requirements of 2 hours of clinical oversight of Behavioral Health Technician (BHT)/Behavioral Health Paraprofessional (BHPP) staff per month, a supplementary 2 hours of direct one-on-one clinical oversight must take place monthly with their direct supervisor for any clinical staff that has direct contact with members.
4.32 - Office Administration Changes and Training Requirements

Providers are responsible to notify MC’s Provider Relations of changes in professional staff at their offices (physicians, physician assistants or nurse practitioners). Administrative changes in office staff may result in the need for additional training. Contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant to schedule any needed staff training.

The following trainings are required for participation in the MC network:

- Medical records standards
- Fraud and abuse training
- Behavioral health step therapy for members with depression, post-partum depression, anxiety and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in compliance with the AHCCCS medical policy manuals (appendices E and F)
- PCP training regarding behavioral health referral and consultation services

All providers and facilities must remain in good standing with any licensure or regulatory agency and adhere to all training requirements. This includes clinical supervision, orientation and training requirements.

4.33 - Consent Forms

For additional information, please refer to Chapter 2.7 General and Informed Consent to Treatment in the Mercy RBHA Provider Manual.

The following consent forms are available on the AHCCCS website:

- Certificate of Medical Necessity for Pregnancy Termination (AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual Exhibit, Policy 410, Attachment C)
- Consent for Sterilization (AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual Exhibit, Policy 420, Attachment A)
- Hysterectomy Consent Form (AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual Exhibit 820-1)
- Consent for the release of confidential medical records (Substance Abuse Treatment/HIV/AIDS).
- Informed Consent for Psychotropic Medication Treatment

4.34 - Contract Additions or Terminations

To meet contractual obligations and state and federal regulations, providers must report any terminations or additions to their contract at least 90 days prior to the change. Providers are required to continue providing services to members throughout the termination period.
4.35 - Continuity of Care
Providers terminating their contracts without cause are required to continue to treat MC members until the treatment course has been completed or care is transitioned. Authorization may be necessary for these services. Members who lose eligibility and continue to have medical needs must be referred to a facility or provider that can provide the needed care at no or low cost. MC is not responsible for payment of services rendered to members who are not eligible.

The Bureau of Health Systems Development has recently posted a new interactive website to help people easily locate a clinic that provides free or low-cost primary, mental and dental health services to people without health insurance. These Sliding Fee Schedule clinics determine, based on gross family income, the portion of billed charges that the uninsured client will be responsible for. Sliding Fee Schedules are based on current Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Interactive SFS Clinics map will help you find a clinic in your community, simply by moving the cursor over your neighborhood, or by typing in your zip code or city.

The site also includes a downloadable complete listing of primary care or behavioral health SFS providers.

You can also download a Mobile App to find federally-funded health centers on the go.

You may also contact MC’s Care Management Department for assistance.

4.36 - Contract Changes or Updates
Providers must report any changes to demographic information to MC at least 90 days prior to the change to follow contractual obligations and state and federal regulations. Providers are required to continue providing services to members throughout the termination period. For information on where to send change information, refer to the Table 8, Provider Record Updates (below).

Not notifying Mercy Care timely of these changes could result in financial ramifications. You may mail your changes to:

Mercy Care
Attention: Provider Relations
4755 S. 44th Place
Phoenix, AZ 85040
Or you may fax any changes to:

Mercy Care - 860-975-3201
Mercy Care RBHA - 860-975-0841

Provider Record Updates Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Change</th>
<th>Notification Requirements</th>
<th>Send to</th>
<th>Time to Process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual or group name</td>
<td><strong>Must</strong> mail updated W-9 and letter describing change and effective date</td>
<td>Provider Relations</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax ID number</td>
<td><strong>Must</strong> mail updated W-9 and letter describing change and effective date</td>
<td>Provider Relations</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address or Phone Number Change</td>
<td><strong>Must</strong> mail or fax</td>
<td>Provider Relations</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing changes including physicians leaving the practice</td>
<td><strong>Must</strong> mail or fax letter describing change and effective date</td>
<td>Provider Relations</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adding new office locations</td>
<td><strong>Must</strong> mail or fax letter describing change and effective date</td>
<td>Provider Relations</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adding new physicians to current contract</td>
<td><strong>Must</strong> mail or fax letter describing change and effective date</td>
<td>Provider Relations</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Beds Usage (i.e. reducing Residential Beds)</td>
<td><strong>Must</strong> BE Pre-APPROVED</td>
<td>Network Administration</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.37 - Credentialing/Re-Credentialing

Providers are re-credentialed every three years and must complete the required reappointment application. Updates on malpractice coverage, state medical licenses and DEA certificates are
also required. Please note that providers may not treat MC members until they are credentialed.

**Temporary/Provisional Credentialing Process**

MC shall have 14 calendar days from receipt of a complete application to render a decision regarding temporary or provisional credentialing. Once provisional/temporary credentialing is approved, provider information must be entered into MC’s information system to allow payment to the provider effective the date the provisional credentialing is approved.

Providers working in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and FQHC Look-alike Center, as well as hospital employed physicians (when appropriate), must be credentialed using the temporary or provisional credentialing process even if the provider does not specifically request their application be processed as temporary or provisional.

**4.38 - Licensure and Accreditation**

Health delivery organizations such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and ambulatory surgical centers must submit updated licensure and accreditation documentation at least annually or as indicated.

**4.39 – Contract Enforcement**

If a provider fails to meet contract requirements or demonstrates a pattern of non-compliance, the provider may be subject to a contract enforcement action, including but not limited to:

- Corrective Action;
- Notice to Cure;
- Sanctions; or
- Referral Restrictions

MC will review Provider non-compliance to determine contract enforcement action(s) that may be taken against Provider. The contract enforcement actions referenced in this Section 4.38 are in addition to and does not take precedence over or preclude MC from taking any other action(s) available to MC in contract or law arising from the same conduct or occurrence.

**Corrective Action**

When MC determines that the Provider is not in compliance with any term of its Contract, MC may request a corrective action plan (CAP) from Provider. CAP’s will be due from the Provider within 15 business days of notice for non-compliance. Provider shall immediately implement a MC approved Corrective Action Plan (CAP).
**Notice to Cure**
When MC determines that the Provider is not in compliance with any term of its Contract, MC may issue a Notice to Cure to the Provider. Upon written Notice to Cure of the Provider’s noncompliance, the Provider shall demonstrate compliance by the date specified in the Notice to Cure. If Provider is not in compliance, as determined by MC, at the end of the specified period, provider may be subject to other enforcement action or remedy available to MC.

**Referral Restrictions**
MC may restrict the referral of Members to a Provider when the Provider’s services do not meet the standard of care for the Provider’s area of practice or the Provider has failed to meet performance standards or is otherwise out of compliance with its Contract.

**Sanctions**
In addition to financial sanctions permitted elsewhere in the Provider Manual or the Provider’s contract with MC, the Provider may be subject to financial sanctions for failure to comply with any term of its Contract. Sanctions will also be passed down to provider that are incurred by MC from AHCCCS, CMS or another regulator and which may be attributed to Provider. Provider will be notified in writing of the basis for the sanction. A provider may file a claim dispute if MC imposes a sanction against the provider.

- 1st sanction $5,000 non-compliance contract requirement per location
- 2nd sanction $10,000 non-compliance contract requirement per location
- 3rd sanction $15,000 non-compliance contract requirement per location
- 4th sanction $20,000 non-compliance contract requirement per location
- 5th sanction $25,000 non-compliance contract requirement per location

**Referral Restrictions**
MC may restrict the referral of Members to a Provider when the Provider’s services do not meet the standard of care for the Provider’s area of practice or the Provider has failed to meet performance standards or is otherwise out of compliance with its Contract.

**Repeat Occurrences**
Repeat occurrences of untimely submission of deliverables or reports, or incomplete or inaccurate reports or deliverables will trigger a compounding sanction process. Under this process, sanction amounts will be increased due to the provider’s failure to remediate the problem through the Corrective Action, Notice to Cure or Sanction processes.
Providers who are “Out of Compliance” with Deliverable standards will be contacted by the Network Relations Specialist/Consultant to re-educate the provider on compliance requirements related to Deliverables standards. The Network Relations Specialist/Consultant will continue to monitor provider compliance each month. If a provider remains out of compliance with Provider Deliverables, MC will implement the following schedule of sanctions.

**Untimely Deliverable or Reports:** $1,000 sanction per each business day beyond the due date. For repeat untimely submission of the same Deliverable across reporting periods, MC will assess compounding sanctions in the $1,000 increments for each business day beyond the due date. For example, Deliverable A was submitted two business days late in October and was subsequently late by one business day the following reporting month, a sanction of $1,000 will be assessed for October and a sanction of $2,000 for November. Compounding sanctions will not exceed $5,000 for each business day beyond the specified deadline and, will only be assessed for Deliverables.

**Incomplete and/or Inaccurate Deliverables or Reports:** $5,000 for each rejection of a Deliverable due to incomplete and inaccurate reporting. For each repeat rejection of Deliverables which are incomplete or inaccurate across separate reporting periods, Providers may be subject to compounding sanctions in the $5,000 increments for each rejection, not to exceed $25,000 per rejected Deliverable. For example:

- 1st time Rejected Sanction $5,000 per rejection
- 2nd time Rejected Sanction $10,000 per rejection
- 3rd time Rejected Sanction $15,000 per rejection
- 4th time Rejected Sanction $20,000 per rejection
- 5th time Rejected Sanction $25,000 per rejection

**Disputes**
Although Corrective Actions and Notice to Cures are not subject to appeal, Contracted providers are encouraged to notify MC if any of the performance deficiencies is identified as a dispute, including the factual and contractual basis for that position. Such information must be provided to your Provider Relations Liaison with a copy to ProviderRelations@MercyCareAZ.org.

A provider may file a claim dispute if MC imposes a sanction against the provider. Please refer to Provider Claim Disputes, for details regarding how to file a claim dispute related to sanctions under each Plan Specific Terms section.
4.40 – Duty to Report Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation

Duty to Report Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Incapacitated/Vulnerable Adults

Mercy Care subcontracted healthcare providers responsible for the care of an incapacitated or vulnerable adult and who have a reasonable basis to believe that abuse or neglect of the adult has occurred or that exploitation of the adult's property has occurred shall report this information immediately either in member or by telephone. This report shall be made to a peace officer or to a protective services worker within APS. Information on how to contact APS to make a report is located by going to the webpage for the APS Central Intake Unit. A written report must also be mailed or delivered within forty-eight hours or on the next working day if the forty-eight hours expire on a weekend or holiday. The report shall contain:

- The names and addresses of the adult and any members who have control or custody of the adult, if known;
- The adult's age and the nature and extent of his/her incapacity or vulnerability;
- The nature and extent of the adult's injuries or physical neglect or of the exploitation of the adult's property; and
- Any other information that the member reporting believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the adult's injuries or physical neglect or of the exploitation of the adult's property.

Upon written and signed request for records from the investigating peace officer or APS worker, the member who has custody or control of medical or financial records of the incapacitated or vulnerable adult for whom a report is required shall make such records, or a copy of such records, available. Records disclosed are confidential and may be used only in a judicial or administrative proceeding or investigation resulting from the report. If psychiatric records are requested, the custodian of the records shall notify the attending psychiatrist, who may remove the following information from the records before they are made available:

- Personal information about individuals other than the patient; and
- Information regarding specific diagnoses or treatment of a psychiatric condition, if the attending psychiatrist certifies in writing that release of the information would be detrimental to the patient's health or treatment.

If any portion of a psychiatric record is removed, a court, upon request of a peace officer or APS worker, may order that the entire record or any portion of such record contains information relevant to the reported abuse or neglect be made available to the peace officer or APS worker investigating the abuse or neglect.
Duty to Report Abuse, Physical Injury, Neglect and Denial/Deprivation of Medical or Surgical Care or Nourishment of Minors

Any Mercy Care healthcare subcontracted provider who reasonably believes that any of the following incidents has occurred shall immediately report this information to a peace officer or to a DCS worker by calling the Arizona Child Abuse Hotline at (888) 767-2445; TDD - (602) 530-1831; or (800) 530-1831:

- Any physical injury, abuse, reportable offense or neglect involving a minor that cannot be identified as accidental by the available medical history; or
- A denial or deprivation of necessary medical treatment, surgical care or nourishment with the intent to cause or allow the death of an infant.

If a report concerns a member who does not have care, custody or control of the minor, the report shall be made to a peace officer only. Reports shall be made immediately by telephone or in member and shall be followed by a written report within seventy-two hours. The report shall contain:

- The names and addresses of the minor and the minor's parents or the member(s) having custody of the minor, if known.
- The minor's age and the nature and extent of the minor's abuse, physical injury or neglect, including any evidence of previous abuse, physical injury or neglect.
- Any other information that the member believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the abuse, physical injury or neglect.

If a physician, psychologist, or behavioral health professional receives a statement from a member other than a parent, stepparent, or guardian of the minor during the course of providing sex offender treatment that is not court ordered or that does not occur while the offender is incarcerated in the State Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Corrections, the physician, psychologist, or behavioral health professional may withhold the reporting of that statement if the physician, psychologist, or behavioral health professional determines it is reasonable and necessary to accomplish the purposes of the treatment.

Upon written request by the investigating peace officer or DCS worker, the member who has custody or control of medical records of a minor for whom a report is required shall make the records, or a copy of the records, available. Records are confidential and may be used only in a judicial or administrative proceeding or investigation resulting from the required report. If psychiatric records are requested, the custodian of the records shall notify the attending psychiatrist, who may remove the following information before the records are made available:

- Personal information about individuals other than the patient.
Information regarding specific diagnoses or treatment of a psychiatric condition, if the attending psychiatrist certifies in writing that release of the information would be detrimental to the patient's health or treatment.

If any portion of a psychiatric record is removed, a court, upon request by a peace officer or DCS worker, may order that the entire record or any portion of the record that contains information relevant to the reported abuse, physical injury or neglect be made available for purposes of investigation.

4.41 – Duty to Warn

Duty to Protect Potential Victims of Physical Harm

All Mercy Care healthcare providers have a duty to protect others against the violent conduct of a patient. When a Mercy Care healthcare provider determines, or under applicable professional standards, reasonably should have determined that a patient poses a serious danger to others, he/she bears a duty to exercise care to protect the foreseeable victim of that danger. The foreseeable victim need not be specifically identified by the patient but may be someone who would be the most likely victim of the patient’s violent conduct.

While the discharge of this duty may take various forms, the Mercy Care healthcare provider need only exercise that reasonable degree of skill, knowledge and care ordinarily possessed and exercised by members of that professional specialty under similar circumstances. Any duty owed by a Mercy Care healthcare provider to take reasonable precautions to prevent harm threatened by a patient can be discharged by any of the following, depending upon the circumstances:

- Communicating, when possible, the threat to all identifiable victims;
- Notifying a law enforcement agency in the vicinity where the patient or any potential victim resides;
- Taking reasonable steps to initiate proceedings for voluntary or involuntary hospitalization, if appropriate; or
- Taking any other precautions that a reasonable and prudent mental health provider would take under the circumstances.

4.42 - Marketing

Providers may not market MC’s name, logo, or likeness without prior approval. If a provider advertisement refers to MC’s name, logo, or likeness, the advertising must be prior approved by AHCCCS.
4.43 - Provider Policies and Procedures - Health Care Acquired Conditions and Abuse

As a prerequisite to contracting with an organizational provider, MC must ensure that the organizational provider has established policies and procedures that meet AHCCCS requirements. The requirements must be met for all organizational providers (including, but not limited to, hospitals, home health agencies, attendant care agencies, group homes, nursing facilities, behavioral health facilities, dialysis centers, transportation companies, dental and medical schools, and free-standing surgi-centers): and the process by which the subcontractor reports at a minimum incidences of Health Care Acquired Conditions, abuse, neglect, exploitation, injuries, suicide attempts and unexpected death to MC.

4.44 - Mercy Care Web Portal

MC provides secure web-based platforms enabling health plans to communicate healthcare information directly with providers. Users can perform transactions, download information, and work interactively with member healthcare information.

There are two web portals available.

- **Mercy Care Web Portal** – available for Mercy Care Complete Care and Mercy Care Long Term Care.
- **Mercy Care RBHA Web Portal** – available for Mercy Care RBHA.

The following information can be attained from the Mercy Care Web Portal platform:

- **Member Eligibility Search** – Verify current eligibility on one or more members. Please note that eligibility may also be verified through the AHCCCS website.
- **Panel Roster** – View the list of members currently assigned to the provider as the primary care provider (PCP).
- **Provider List** – Search for a specific health plan provider by name, specialty, or location.
- **Claims Status Search** – Search for provider claims by member, provider, claim number, or service dates. Only claims associated with the user’s account provider ID will be displayed.
- **Remittance Advice Search** – Search for provider claim payment information by member name, member ID, provider name, provider ID, date of service, or date range or specific claim number. Only remits associated with the user’s account provider ID will be displayed.
- **Authorization List** – Search for provider authorizations by member, provider, authorization data, or submission/service dates. Only authorizations associated with the user’s account provider ID will be displayed.
HEDIS – Check the status of the member’s compliance with any of the HEDIS measures. “Yes” means the member has measures that they are not compliant with; “No” means that member has met the requirements.

Important provider documents are also available for your use once you sign into Mercy OneSource, including:

- Mercy Care Web Portal Instructions
- Mercy Care Web Portal Add User Process
- Mercy Care Web Portal Provider Web Portal Registration Form
- Current and Historical MC Fee Schedules
- Pro-Report Log On

For registration information regarding Mercy Care Web Portal, please access the Mercy Care Provider Web Portal Registration Form available on the website under the Forms section. Once you have your log in you may access Mercy Care Web Portal by clicking on the link.

4.45 – Provider Directory

Mercy Care’s Provider Directory is online and can be found on our Find A Provider/Pharmacy web page. The directory allows you to:

- Search by provider name and/or specialty.
- Indicate whether providers are accepting referrals and conducting initial assessments.
- Identify provider locations that provide physical access, accessible equipment, and/or reasonable accommodations for members with physical or cognitive disabilities.

It is very important for providers to promptly notify Mercy Care of any changes that would impact the accuracy of the provider directory (e.g., change in telephone, fax number, or no longer accepting referrals).
MC Chapter 5 – Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

5.00 - EPSDT Program Overview
The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program (EPSDT) is a comprehensive child health program of prevention, treatment, correction, and improvement (amelioration) of physical and mental health problems for AHCCCS members under the age of 21 as described in 42 USC 1396d (a) and (r). The EPSDT program is governed by federal and state regulations and community standards of practice. All PCPs who provide services to members under age 21 are required to provide comprehensive health care, screening and preventive services, including, but not limited to:

- Primary prevention
- Early intervention
- Diagnosis
- All services required to treat or improve a defect, problem or condition identified in an EPSDT screening.

Please refer to the Claims Processing Manual on our Claims Information webpage, Chapter 3 – Early Periodic Screen and Developmental Testing (EPSDT) on MCCC’s website for specific claim codes.

5.01 - Requirements for EPSDT Providers
PCPs are required to comply with regulatory requirements and MCCC preventative requirements which include:

- Documenting immunizations within 30 days of administration into Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS) and enroll every year in the Vaccine for Children Program.
- Providing all screening services according to the AHCCCS Periodicity Schedule and community standards of practice. The Periodicity Schedule can be viewed by accessing the AHCCCS’ website.
- Ensuring all infants receive both the first and second newborn screening tests. Specimens for the second test may be drawn at the PCP’s office and mailed directly to the Arizona State Laboratory, or the member may be referred to MCCC’s contracted laboratory for the draw.
- Using current AHCCCS standardized EPSDT tracking forms to document services provided and compliance with AHCCCS standards. The EPSDT Tracking Forms are available on MCCC’s website under Forms. They are also available on the AHCCCS website.
• Sending copies of EPSDT Tracking Forms to MCCC monthly. Please send forms by mail to 4755 S. 44th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85040 - Attn: Quality Management or fax the forms to 602-431-7157.
• Using all clinical encounters to assess the need for EPSDT screening and/or services.
• Documenting in the medical record the member’s decision not to participate in the EPSDT program, if appropriate.
• Making referrals for diagnosis and treatment when necessary and initiate follow-up services within 60 days.
• Scheduling the next appointment at the time of the current office visit for children 24 months of age and younger.
• Reporting all EPSDT encounters on required claim forms, using the Preventive Medicine Codes.
• Referring members to WIC, AzEIP and Head Start as appropriate.
• Initiating and coordinating referrals to behavioral health providers as necessary.

An EPSDT screening includes the following basic elements:
• Comprehensive health and developmental history, including growth and development screening (includes physical, nutritional and behavioral health assessments).
• Developmental screening (using an AHCCCS approved developmental screening tool) for members age 9, 18 and 24 months.
• Comprehensive unclothed physical examination.
• Appropriate immunizations according to age and health history.
• Laboratory tests appropriate to age and risk for the following: blood lead, tuberculosis skin testing, anemia testing and sickle cell trait.
• Health education and counseling about child development, healthy lifestyles and accident and disease prevention.
• Appropriate dental screening and referral.
• Fluoride varnish application every six months (by providers who have completed training) for members, age 6-24 months, with at least one tooth eruption.
• Appropriate vision and hearing/speech testing.
• Obesity screening using the BMI percentile for children.
• Anticipatory guidance.

5.02 - Health Education
The PCP is responsible for ensuring that health counseling and education are provided at each EPSDT visit. Anticipatory guidance should be provided so that parents or guardians know what to expect in terms of the child’s development. In addition, information should be provided regarding accident and disease prevention, and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
Screenings

5.03 - Periodic Screenings

The AHCCCS EPSDT Periodicity Schedule specifies the screening services to be provided at each stage of the child's development. The AHCCCS EPSDT Periodicity Schedule (Exhibit 430-1) can be viewed on the AHCCCS website. This schedule follows the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendation. Children may receive additional inter-periodic screening at the discretion of the provider. MCCC does not limit the number of well-child visits that members under age 21 receive. Claims should be billed with the following CPT/ICD-9-CM Diagnosis (prior to 10/1/15) or ICD-10-CM Diagnosis (effective 10/1/15 and after) Codes based on age appropriateness:

**Codes to Identify Well-Child Visits – Ages 0 – 15 Months**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT</th>
<th>ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Codes for Dates of Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Prior to 10/1/15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99381, 99382, 99391, 99392, 99461</td>
<td>V20.2, V20.31, V20.32, V70.0, V70.3, V70.5, V70.6, V70.8, V70.9</td>
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**ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes for Dates of Service**

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z00.121, Z00.129, Z00.110, Z00.111, Z02.89, Z00.8, Z00.70, Z00.71</td>
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</tbody>
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**Codes to Identify Well-Child Visits – Ages 3 – 6 Years**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Prior to 10/1/15</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99382, 99383, 99392, 99393</td>
<td>V20.2, V70.0, V70.3, V70.5, V70.6, V70.8, V70.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes for Dates of Service**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>After 10/1/15</th>
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<tr>
<td>Z00.121, Z00.129, Z02.89, Z00.8, Z00.5, Z00.70, Z00.71</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Codes to Identify Well-Care Visits – Adolescents

CPT

ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Codes for Dates of Service
Prior to 10/1/15
99383-99385, 99393-99395 V20.2, V70.0, V70.3, V70.5, V70.6, V70.8, V70.9

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes for Dates of Service
After 10/1/15
Z00.121, Z00.129, Z02.89, Z00.8, Z00.5, Z00.70, Z00.71

Well Child Visits for sports and other activities should be based on the most recent EPSDT Well Child Visit, as the annual Well Child Visits are comprehensive and should include all the services required for sports or other activities. AHCCCS does not cover sports or other physicals solely for that purpose. If it can be combined with a regularly scheduled EPSDT visit, it is covered, though no additional payment would be allowable for completing the school or other organization paperwork that would allow the child to participate in the activity.

5.04 - Nutritional Assessment and Nutritional Therapy
MC covers nutritional assessment and nutritional therapy for EPSDT members on an enteral, parenteral or oral basis when determined medically necessary to provide either complete daily dietary requirements, or to supplement a member’s daily nutritional and caloric intake.

The following requirements apply:

- Must be assessed at each visit.
- Members in need of nutritional assessment or nutritional therapy should be identified and referred to a registered dietician in MC’s network.
- Members in need of nutritional supplements may be referred to Option 1 Nutrition Solutions, LLC, MC’s contracted DME provider for these services.
- Nutritional therapy requires prior authorization and approval by MC. In order to determine prior authorization, MCCC requires Attachment B, AHCCCS Certificate of Medical Necessity for Commercial Oral Nutritional Supplements form available on the AHCCCS website under the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual, Chapter 400 – Medical Policy for Maternal and Child Health, along with clinical notes, supporting documentation and evidence of required criteria as indicated in the Certificate of Medical Necessity be sent to Option 1 Nutrition Solutions, LLC. Their fax number is 480-883-1193. Option 1 will contact MCCC to request prior authorization.
For detailed information regarding Nutritional Assessment and Nutritional Therapy, please refer to the **AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM), Chapter 400 – Medical Policy for Maternal and Child Health**.

### 5.05 – Developmental Screening Tools

As of 8/1/14, the following developmental screening tools are available for members at their 9, 18 and 24-month EPSDT visit:

- **Ages and Stages Questionnaires™ Third Edition (ASQ)** is a tool which is used to identify developmental delays in the first 5 years of a child’s life. The sooner a delay or disability is identified, the sooner a child can relate to services and support that make a real difference.

- **Ages and Stages Questionnaires®: Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE)** is a tool which is used to identify developmental delays for social-emotional screening.

- **The Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)** may be used only as a screening tool by a primary care provider, for members 16-30 months of age, to screen for autism when medically indicated.

- **The Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS)** may be used for developmental screening of EPSDT-aged members.

Providers may bill for this service if the following criteria is met:

- The member’s EPSDT visit is at either 9, 18, or 24 months;
- Prior to providing the service, the provider is required to complete the required training for the developmental screening tool being utilized and submit a copy of the training certificate to CAQH.
- The code is appropriately billed (96110-EP). Copies of the completed tools must be retained in the medical record.

### 5.06 – PCP Application of Fluoride Varnish

Effective 4/1/2014, a change was made to the **AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM) under Policy 431 - EPSDT Oral Health Care**. The change advises that the physician, physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner must perform an oral health screening as part of the EPSDT physical examination. Please refer to this document if you have further questions about this change.

Physicians who have completed the AHCCCS required training may be reimbursed for fluoride varnish applications completed at the EPSDT visit for recipients who are at least 6 months of
age, with at least 1 tooth eruption. Additional applications occurring every 6 months during an EPSDT visit, up until the recipient’s 2nd birthday, will also be reimbursed.

PCPs and attending physicians must refer EPSDT recipients to a dentist for appropriate services based on the needs identified through the screening process and for routine dental care based on the AHCCCS EPSDT Periodicity Schedule (AMPM Exhibit 431-1). Evidence of the referral must be documented on the ESPDT Tracking Form and in the recipient’s medical record.

Recipients must be assigned to a dental home by one year of age and seen by a dentist for routine preventative care according to the AHCCCS EPSDT Periodicity Schedule. The physician may refer EPSDT recipients for a dental assessment at an earlier age, if their oral health screening reveals potential carious lesions or other conditions requiring assessment and/or treatment by a dental professional. In addition to physician referrals, EPSDT recipients are allowed self-referral to an AHCCCS registered dentist.

AHCCCS recommended training for fluoride varnish application is located at the Smiles For Life website under Training Module 6 that covers caries risk assessment, fluoride varnish and counseling. Upon completion of the required training, providers should submit a copy of their certificate to CAQH. This certificate will be used in the credentialing process to verify completion of training necessary for reimbursement.

An oral health screening must be part of an EPSDT screening conducted by a PCP. However, it does not substitute for examination through direct referral to a dentist. PCPs must refer EPSDT members for appropriate services based on needs identified through the screening process and for routine dental care based on the AHCCCS EPSDT Periodicity Schedule. Evidence of this referral must be documented on the EPSDT Tracking Form and in the member’s medical record.

Please refer to our Claims Processing Manual on our Claims Information web page, Chapter 3 – Early and Periodic Screen and Developmental Testing (EPSDT), Section 3.3 – PCP Application of Fluoride Varnish for additional claims processing information.

5.07 - Pediatric Immunizations/Vaccines for Children Program
EPSDT covers all child and adolescent immunizations. Immunizations must be provided according to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines and be up-to-date. Providers are required to coordinate with the Arizona Department of Health Services’ (ADHS) Vaccine for Children Program (VFC) to obtain vaccines for MCCC members who are 18 years of age and under.
Additional information can be attained by calling Vaccine for Children at 602-364-3642 or by accessing their website.

Arizona law requires the reporting of all immunizations administered to children under 19 years old. Immunizations must be reported at least monthly to ADHS. Reported immunizations are held in a central database, the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS) that can be accessed online to obtain complete, accurate records.

Please note that on October 1, 2012 a policy change with the VFC program went into effect. With this update, federal vaccines can no longer be used to immunize privately insured children. Although a newborn may be eligible for Medicaid, hospitals cannot make an absolute determination that a newborn is not also eligible for private insurance at the time that this immunization would be administered. Because of this, the hospitals face the potential of administering VFC vaccines to newborns against the federal requirements. Since many hospitals have dis-enrolled from the VFC program due to this new policy, newborns who are delivered at the facilities may not receive the birth dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine.

MCCC requests that all primary care providers and pediatricians caring for newborns review each member’s immunization records fully upon the initial visit, and subsequent follow-up visits, regardless of where the child was delivered. It is our intention to ensure that the newborns receive all required vaccines, and that those who have not received the birth dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine in the hospital be “caught up” by their primary care provider.

5.08 - Body Mass Index (BMI)

Providers should calculate each child’s BMI starting at 24 months until the member is 21 years old. Body mass index is used to assess underweight, overweight, and those at risk for overweight. BMI for children is gender and age specific. PCPs are required to calculate the child’s BMI and percentile. Additional information is available at the CDC website regarding Body Mass Index (BMI).

The following established percentile cutoff points are used to identify underweight and overweight in children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>BMI Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>BMI for age &lt;5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At risk of Overweight</td>
<td>BMI for age 85&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; percentile to &lt;95&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>BMI for age &gt; 95&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; percentile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If a child is determined to be below the 5th percentile, or above the 85th percentile, the PCP should provide guidance to the member’s parent or guardian regarding diet and exercise for the child. Additional services may be provided, or referrals made if medically necessary.

Additional resources available for your review regarding the prevention of childhood obesity include:

**AAP Institute for Healthy Childhood Weight**
https://ihcw.aap.org/Pages/default.aspx

**AAP Clinical Report: The Role of the Pediatrician in Primary Prevention of Obesity**
http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2015/06/23/peds.2015-1558.full.pdf

**ADHS**

**AzAAP Childhood Obesity Committee Toolkit**
http://www.getfitazkids.org/

**CDC BMI Assessment**
http://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/assessing/bmi/childrens_bmi/about_childrens_bmi.htm

**5.09 - Blood Lead Screening**
In accordance with the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMP), all members at 12 months and 24 months of age and those members between the ages of 24 and 72 months who have not been previously tested or who missed either the 12 or 24-month test must have a blood lead test. Lead levels may be measured at times other than those specified if thought to be medically indicated by the provider, by responses to a lead poisoning verbal risk assessment, or in response to parental concerns. Additional screening for children under six year of age is based on the child’s risk as determined by either the member’s residential zip code or presence of other known risk-factors.

Verbal lead screening is recommended to be completed at each EPSDT visit for children 6 months to 6 years old. Those screening results should identify members who are at risk for blood lead poisoning, and in need of blood lead testing.
Low-risk: All verbal lead screen questions are answered “No” – blood lead testing is only required as indicated above.

High-risk: One or more lead screen questions are answered “Yes”. In this case, a blood lead test is required at that visit and each subsequent EPSDT visit.

5.10 - Eye Examinations and Prescriptive Lenses
EPSDT includes eye exams and prescriptive lenses to correct or ameliorate defects, physical illness and conditions. PCPs are required to perform basic eye exams and refer members to the contracted vision provider for further assessment.

5.11 - Hearing/Speech Screening
Hearing evaluation consists of appropriate hearing screens given according to the EPSDT schedule. Evaluation consists of history, risk factors, parental questions and impedance testing.

- Pure-tone testing should be performed when medically necessary.
- Speech screening shall be performed to assess the language development of the member at each EPSDT visit.

5.12 - Behavioral Health Screening
Screenings for mental health and substance abuse problems are to be conducted at each EPSDT visit. Treatment services are a covered benefit for members under age 21. The PCP is expected to:

- Initiate and coordinate necessary referrals for behavioral health services.
- Monitor whether a member has received services.
- Keep any information received from a behavioral health provider regarding the member in the member’s medical record.
- Initial and date copies of referrals or information sent to a behavioral health provider before placing in the member’s medical record.
- If the member has not yet been seen by the PCP, this information may be kept in an appropriately labeled file in lieu of actually establishing a medical record but must be associated with the member’s medical record as soon as one is established.

5.13 - Dental Screening and Referrals
Oral health screenings are to be conducted at every EPSDT visit. The PCP must screen children less than three years of age at each visit to identify those who require a dental referral for evaluation and treatment.
In addition to the screening, members three years of age and older must be referred to a dentist at least annually. American Association of Pediatric dentistry recommends that the dental visits begin by age one, but the referral isn’t mandatory until age 3. Documented dental findings and treatment must be included in the member’s medical record in the PCP’s office. Depending on the results of the oral health screening, referral to a dentist should be made according to the following timeframes:

- **Urgent** - (Within 24 hours) Pain, infection, swelling and/or soft tissue ulceration of approximately two weeks duration or longer
- **Early** - (Within three weeks) Decay without pain, spontaneous bleeding of the gums and/or suspicious white or red tissue areas
- **Routine** - (Next regular checkup) none of the above problems identified.

The member’s parent or guardian may also self-refer and schedule dental appointments for the member with any MCCC contracted general dentist. They may go directly to the dentist without seeing the PCP first and no authorization is required. For more information regarding PCP Fluoride Application, please refer to section 6.6 – **PCP Application of Fluoride Varnish**.

**5.14 - Tuberculin Skin Testing**

Tuberculin skin testing should be performed as appropriate to age and risk. Children at increased risk of tuberculosis (TB) include those who have contact with persons:

- Confirmed or suspected of TB;
- In jail during the last five years;
- Living in a household with an HIV-infected person or the child is infected with HIV; and
- Traveling/emigrating from, or having significant contact with persons indigenous to, endemic countries.

**5.15 – Metabolic Medical Foods**

Children who have been diagnosed with the following genetic metabolic conditions and who need metabolic medical foods may receive services through their genetics provider. MCCC covers medical foods, within the limitations specified in the **AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual, (AMPM), Chapter 300 – 320-H Metabolic Medical Foods**, for any member diagnosed with one of the following inherited metabolic conditions:

- Phenylketonuria
- Homocystinuria
- Maple Syrup Urine Disease
- Galactosemia (requires soy formula)
- Beta Keto-Thiolase Deficiency
- Citrullinemia
• Glutaric Acidemia Type I
• Methylcrotonyl CoA Carboxylase Deficiency
• Isovaleric Acidemia
• Methylmalonic Acidemia

**State Programs**

**5.16 - Arizona Early Intervention Program**

The Arizona Early Intervention Program (herein AzEIP) is an early intervention program that offers a statewide system of support and services for children birth through three years of age and their families who have disabilities or developmental delays. This program was jointly developed and implemented by AHCCCS and the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) to ensure the coordination and provision of EPSDT and early intervention services, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy and care coordination under Sec. 1905 [42 U.S.C 1396d]. Concerns about a child’s development may be initially identified by the child’s Primary Care Provider or by AzEIP.

MCCC coordinates with AzEIP to ensure that members receive medically necessary EPSDT services in a timely manner to promote optimum child health and development. For additional information, please contact the MCCC AzEIP Coordinator.
MC Chapter 6 – Children’s Rehabilitative Services (CRS)

6.00 - Children’s Rehabilitative Services (CRS) Overview
Arizona’s Children’s Rehabilitative Services (CRS) program provides medical and behavioral health care, treatment, and related support services to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) members who meet the eligibility criteria, have completed the application to be enrolled in the CRS program, and have been determined eligible.

CRS members receive the same AHCCCS covered services as non-CRS AHCCCS members. Services are provided for the CRS condition and other medical and behavioral health services for most CRS members. CRS members can receive care in the community, or in clinics called multispecialty interdisciplinary clinics, which bring many specialty providers together in one location.

6.01 - Integration Initiatives
Arizona’s Children’s Rehabilitative Services (CRS) program, authorized by ARS 36-261 et seq., was originally created in 1929 to serve children with complex health care needs who required specialized services coordinated by a multidisciplinary team. The State of Arizona opted into the Medicaid program in 1982. CRS was folded under the AHCCCS umbrella to leverage federal dollars in providing medically necessary care. However, the CRS program and the services provided remained “carved out” of the AHCCCS managed care model, a model designed to facilitate accessibility to quality cost-effective care.

Historically, the CRS carve-out program provided specialty services to children with specific qualifying medical conditions. Care and services for the CRS qualifying condition(s) were provided through the sole CRS Contractor. However, that same member may also have received other acute care services through a different AHCCCS Contractor or through the American Indian Health Plan (AIHP) or received long-term care services through a different AHCCCS Long Term Care Contractor or the American Indian Fee-for-Service environment, as well as receiving behavioral health services through a Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) or a Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authority (TRBHA).

This fragmentation caused confusion for families and providers and created payment and care coordination responsibility issues between delivery systems. Improving the situation required a model design that reduced fragmentation and ensured optimal access to primary, specialty and behavioral care and which offers effective coordination of all service delivery through one AHCCCS Contractor.
AHCCCS proposed an alternative to the “carve out” model of service delivery and payment for services provided to CRS-eligible individuals. Specifically, proposing that the model be replaced by a payer integration model that required one contractor/payer to assume responsibility for the delivery and payment of multiple services (i.e. services related specifically to CRS conditions as well as services related to primary care and, potentially, other needs like behavioral health). Ultimately, the purpose of such a model is to ensure optimal access to important specialty care as well as effective coordination of all service delivery.

As of October 1, 2013, AHCCCS integrated all services for most children enrolled in the acute care program with CRS qualifying conditions through one CRS Contractor United Healthcare Community Plan (UCCP) with the goals of improved member outcomes and satisfaction, reduced member confusion, improved care coordination, and streamlined administration. At the same time, children with CRS qualifying conditions enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS), other than the Division for Developmental Disabilities, were fully integrated into their ALTCS Contractor for all primary, specialty, long term care, and behavioral health care including care and services related to a CRS condition. To ensure a smooth transition, AHCCCS conducted a comprehensive readiness review process, weekly monitoring of the CRS Contractor’s network development efforts, systems testing and oversight of the transition of member data from relinquishing Contractors to UHCCP. In total, over 80 evaluation elements were reviewed to determine readiness to administer members’ acute, behavioral health, and CRS-related benefits.

Most AHCCCS members with CRS conditions were enrolled with a single statewide health plan (UnitedHealthcare Community Plan) for all or a portion of their health care services.

Beginning on October 1, 2018, these members will have choice of an AHCCCS Complete Care (ACC) plan for all services (including CRS, other non-CRS physical health services, and all covered behavioral health services). Members who currently see a provider for a CRS condition will still have access to the same array of covered services with ACC health plans. Providers must notify the Care Management department when treatment for the CRS condition is completed.

6.02 - CRS Qualifying Medical Conditions
The AHCCCS published document, Covered Conditions in the CRS Program lists out medical conditions that are covered by CRS, as well as those conditions that are not covered.
6.03 - Who is Eligible for CRS
Any AHCCCS member under the age of 21 who has a CRS-covered condition as specified in the Covered Conditions in the CRS Program that requires active treatment. If the CRS applicant is not currently an AHCCCS member they must apply for AHCCCS either online or via phone:

- Online at: www.Healthearizonaplus.gov or
- Call AHCCCS toll free at 1-855-HEA-PLUS (toll-free 1-855-432-7587) or you may call our Member Services at 602-263-3000 or toll-free 800-624-3879 (TTY/TDD 711).

Anyone can fill out a CRS application form, including, a family member, doctor, or health plan representative. To apply for the CRS program, a CRS application, either in English or Spanish, needs to be filled out and mailed or faxed to the AHCCCS CRS Enrollment Unit, with medical documentation that supports that the applicant has a CRS qualifying condition.

The AHCCCS CRS Enrollment Unit may also assist an applicant with completing the form. You can contact them at: 602-417-4545 or 1-855-333-7828.

CRS Application with Instructions:
- CRS application form instructions - English
- CRS application form - English
- CRS application form - Spanish
- Instructriones para completar la solicitud para Servicios de Rehabilitación Infantil (CRS)

Once approved for the CRS program, an applicant is enrolled with the ACC Plan of their choice. The ACC health plan will manage care for the CRS condition(s), along with the physical and behavioral health services of the member.
MC Chapter 7 – Family Planning

7.00 - Family Planning Overview
Family planning services are provided through Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC. Family planning services are those services provided by health professionals to eligible persons who voluntarily choose to delay or prevent pregnancy. To allow members to make informed decisions, counseling should provide accurate, up-to-date information regarding available family planning methods and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Please refer to our Claims Processing Manual on our Claims Information web page, Chapter 2 – Professional Claim Types by Specialty, Section 2.14 – Family Planning for the submission of family planning claims.

7.01 - Provider Responsibilities for Family Planning Services
All providers are responsible for:

- Making appropriate referrals to health professionals who provide family planning services.
- Keeping complete medical records regarding referrals.
- Verifying and documenting a member’s willingness to receive family planning services.
- Providing medically necessary management of members with family planning complications. Notifying members of available contraceptive services and making these services available to all members of reproductive age using the following guidelines:
  - Information for members who are 17 years of age and younger must be given through the member’s parent or guardian.
  - Information for members between 18 and 55 years of age must be provided directly to the member or legal guardian.
  - Whenever possible, contraceptive services should be offered in a broad-spectrum counseling context, which includes discussion of mental health and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.
  - Members of any age whose sexual behavior exposes them to possible conception or STDs should have access to the most effective methods of contraception.
  - Every effort should be made to include male or female partners in such services.
- Providing counseling and education to members of both genders that is age appropriate and includes information on:
  - Prevention of unplanned pregnancies.
Counseling for unwanted pregnancies. Counseling should include the member’s short and long-term goals.

- Spacing of births to promote better outcomes for future pregnancies.
- Preconception counseling to assist members in deciding on the advisability and timing of pregnancy, to assess risks and to reinforce habits that promote a healthy pregnancy.
- Sexually transmitted diseases, to include methods of prevention, abstinence, and changes in sexual behavior and lifestyle that promote the development of good health habits.

Contraceptives should be recommended and prescribed for sexually active members. PHPs are required to discuss the availability of family planning services annually. If a member’s sexual activity presents a risk or potential risk, the provider should initiate an in-depth discussion on the variety of contraceptives available and their use and effectiveness in preventing sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS). Such discussions must be documented in the member’s medical record.

7.02 - Covered and Non-Covered Services

Full health care coverage and voluntary family planning services are covered.

The following services are not covered for the purposes of family planning:

- Treatment of infertility;
- Pregnancy termination counseling;
- Pregnancy terminations;
- Hysterectomies;
- Hysteroscopic tubal sterilization;
- Services to reduce voluntary, surgically induced fertilized embryos.

7.03 - Prior Authorization Requirements

Prior authorization is required for family planning services, sterilization or pregnancy termination. Prior authorization must be obtained before the services are rendered or the services will not be eligible for reimbursement.

To obtain authorization for family planning services, please complete the Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC Prior Authorization: Aetna Family Planning Service Request Form, available on Forms web page. Requests should be faxed to:
To obtain authorization for sterilization or pregnancy - termination:

- Complete applicable form(s)
  - **For sterilization:** Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC’s **Prior Authorization:** Aetna Family Planning Service Request Form, available on our [Forms](#) web page, listed above and the AHCCCS Attachment A - Consent for Sterilization Form contained in the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual, Chapter 420 – Family Planning. Permanent sterilization is only covered for MCCC members 21 years of age or older.
  - **For pregnancy termination:** Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC’s **Prior Authorization:** Aetna Family Planning Service Request Form, listed above.
- Fax completed prior authorization form and signed consent form prior to the procedure to:

  Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC
  800-573-4165

For members enrolled in the Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD) health professionals must obtain prior authorization from MCCC by faxing your request to 602-431-7155. Final determination will be made by the DES/DDD medical director prior to providing sterilization procedures for members enrolled with DES/DDD, in addition to Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC. Notification of approved requests will be faxed or mailed to the provider.
MC Chapter 8 - Maternity

8.00 - Maternity Overview
MC assigns newly identified pregnant members to a PCP to manage their routine non-OB care. The OB provider manages the pregnancy care for the member and is reimbursed in accordance with their contract.

If a member chooses to have an OB as their PCP during their pregnancy, MC will assign the member to an OB PCP. If an OB provider has been assigned for OB services for a pregnant member, the member will remain with their OB PCP until after their post-partum visit when they will return to their previously assigned PCP.

8.01 – High-Risk Maternity Care
• In partnership with OB providers, MC care managers identify pregnant women who are "at risk" for adverse pregnancy outcomes. MC offers a multi-disciplinary program to assist providers in managing the care of pregnant members who are at risk because of medical conditions, substance use, serious mental illness (SMI), social circumstances or non-compliant behaviors. MC also considers factors such as noncompliance with prenatal care appointments and medical treatment plans in determining risk status.
• Referrals to High-Risk Care Management can be made by faxing both the completed ACOG and referral information electronically to OBfaxes@aetna.com or to the fax number 602-431-7552. Please include the provider group and Tax ID Number.
• Members identified as “at risk” are reviewed and evaluated for ongoing follow up - during their pregnancy by an obstetrical care manager.
• When submitting the ACOG form, please clearly document all high-risk issues. Submitted forms are reviewed by our perinatal triage RN. All high-risk pregnant members are care managed by a skilled social worker or registered nurses throughout the perinatal and post-partum period.

Maternity Care for Members with Developmental Disabilities
Women with developmental disabilities may have higher rates of adverse pregnancy outcomes. MC recognizes the needs of DDD enrolled pregnant women and our intent is to keep our providers updated.

ALL pregnant MC members with a Developmental Disability (DD) designation are considered high risk and require engagement by the high-risk perinatal care management team.
Identified DDD enrolled pregnant members enrolled in the care management process receive comprehensive interventions during the perinatal and post-partum periods by skilled professional care managers.

Providers caring for DDD enrolled pregnant women should:

- REFER ALL DDD enrolled pregnant MC members to the High-Risk Perinatal Care Management program. The perinatal care management team will assist with coordination of care by providing member specific education and support, along with referrals to community resources as needed.
- Referrals can be made by faxing both the completed ACOG and referral information electronically to OBfaxes@aetna.com or to the fax number 602-431-7552. Please include the provider group and Tax ID Number.
- When submitting the ACOG form, please clearly document all high-risk issues. Submitted forms are reviewed by our perinatal triage RN. All High-Risk pregnant members are care managed by a skilled social worker or registered nurses throughout the perinatal and post-partum period.

8.02 - OB Care Management
MCCC’s perinatal care management provides comprehensive care management services to high risk pregnant members, for improving maternal and fetal birth outcomes. The perinatal care management team consists of a social worker, care management associates, and professional registered nurses skilled in working with the unique needs of high-risk pregnant women. Perinatal care managers take a collaborative approach to engage high risk pregnant members telephonically throughout their pregnancy and post-partum period.

Members who present with high risk perinatal conditions should be referred to perinatal care management. These conditions include:

- a history of preterm labor before 37 weeks of gestation;
- bleeding and blood clotting disorders;
- chronic medical conditions;
- polyhydramnios or oligohydramnios;
- placenta previa, abruption or accreta;
- cervical changes;
- multiple gestation;
- teenage mothers;
- hyperemesis;
- poor weight gain;
- advanced maternal age;
- substance abuse;
- mental illness;
- domestic violence;
- non-compliance with OB appointments.

Referrals can be made by faxing the member information on the Perinatal Referral Form, available on our Forms web page, electronically to OBfaxes@aetna.com or to the fax number 602-431-7552. Please include the provider group and Tax ID Number.

8.03 - OB Incentive Program
MC’s perinatal care management offers an OB incentive program for providers who identify and refer members with high-risk pregnancies. The OB incentive program rewards providers with $25.00 for each member ACOG submitted within the first trimester. Identification of high-risk conditions within the first trimester promotes early intervention of care coordination services and serves to improve birth outcomes.

8.04 - Obstetrical Care Appointment Standards
MC has specific standards for the timing of initial and return prenatal appointments. These standards are as follows:

Initial Visit
All OB providers must make it possible for members to obtain initial prenatal care appointments within the time frames identified:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Appointment Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Trimester</td>
<td>Within 14 days of the request for an appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Trimester</td>
<td>Within seven days of the request for an appointment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Trimester</td>
<td>Within three days of the request for an appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Return Visits    | Return visits should be scheduled routinely after the initial visit. Members must be able to obtain return prenatal visits:  
|                  | First 28 weeks - every four weeks                             |
|                  | From 28 to 36 weeks - every two to three weeks                |
From 37 weeks until delivery – weekly

**High Risk Pregnancy Care**
Visits should be scheduled within three days of identification of high risk by the Contractor or maternity care provider, or immediately if an emergency exists.

Return visits scheduled as appropriate to their individual needs; however, no less frequently than listed above.

**Postpartum Visits**
Postpartum visits should be scheduled routinely after delivery. Routine postpartum visits should be scheduled no later than 57 days after delivery.

### 8.05 - General Obstetrical Care Requirements

All providers must adhere to the standards of care established by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), which include, but are not limited to the following:

- Use of a standardized prenatal medical record and risk assessment tool, such as the ACOG Form, documenting all aspects of maternity care.
- Completion of history including medical and personal health (including infections and exposures), menstrual cycles, past pregnancies and outcomes, family and genetic history.
- Clinical expected date of confinement.
- Performance of physical exam (including determination and documentation of pelvic adequacy).
- Performance of laboratory tests at recommended time intervals.
- Comprehensive risk assessment incorporating psychosocial, nutritional, medical and educational factors.
- Routine prenatal visits with blood pressure, weight, fundal height (tape measurement), fetal heart tones, urine dipstick for protein and glucose, ongoing risk assessment with any change in pregnancy risk recorded and an appropriate management plan.
- Post-partum screening must be documented on claims form for all members. For additional information regarding Maternity Care and Delivery billing, please refer to our [Claims Processing Manual](#), Chapter 2 – Professional Claim Types by Specialty, Section 2.5 – Obstetrical Billing.
- Refer members with post-partum depression to a Behavioral Health provider. Please call 800-564-5465 with requests for assignment to a behavioral health provider.
8.06 - Additional Obstetrical Physician and Practitioner Requirements

- Educate members on healthy behaviors during pregnancy, including proper nutrition, effects of alcohol and drugs, the physiology of pregnancy, the process of labor and delivery, breast feeding and other infant care information.
- Offer HIV/AIDS testing and confidential post testing counseling to all members.
- Ensure delivery of newborn meets MC criteria.
- Remind delivery hospital of requirement to notify MC on the date of delivery.
- Refer member to MC care management, and other known support services and community resources, as needed.
- Encourage members to participate in childbirth classes at no cost to them. The member may call the facility where she will deliver and register for childbirth classes.
- A recent change in the AHCCCS medical policy manual (AMPM), chapter 410 now requires that all pregnant members be screened through the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP) at least one per trimester. In addition, for those members receiving opioids, appropriate intervention and counseling must be provided and documented, including referrals of members for behavioral health services, if indicated, for assessment and treatment of substance use disorder (SUD).

Providers may also consult with an MC medical director for members with other conditions that are deemed appropriate for perinatology referral. Please call 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879 with requests for assignment to a perinatologist.

In non-emergent situations, all obstetrical care physicians and practitioners must refer members to MC providers. Referrals outside the contracted network must be prior authorized. Failure to obtain prior authorization for non-emergent OB or newborn services out of the network will result in claim denials. Members may not be billed for covered services if the provider neglects to obtain the appropriate approvals.

8.07 - Provider Requirements for Medically Necessary Termination of Pregnancy

Medically necessary pregnancy termination services are provided through Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC. An Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC Medical Director will review all requests for medically necessary pregnancy terminations. Documentation must include:

- A copy of the member’s medical record;
- Written explanation of the reason that the procedure is medically necessary. For example, it is:
Creating a serious physical or mental health problem for the pregnant member.
- Seriously impairing a bodily function of the pregnant member.
- Causing dysfunction of a bodily organ or part of the pregnant member.
- Exacerbating a health problem of the pregnant member.
- Preventing the pregnant member from obtaining treatment for a health problem.

If the pregnancy termination is requested because of incest or rape, the following information must be included:
- Identification of the proper authority to which the incident was reported, including the name of the agency
- The report number
- The date that the report was filed

When termination of pregnancy is considered due to rape or incest, or because the health of the mother is in jeopardy secondary to medical complications, please contact Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC at 602-798-2745 or 888-836-8147. All terminations requested for minors must include a signature of a parent or legal guardian or a certified copy of a court order.

For members enrolled in the Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD) health professionals must obtain prior authorization from MC by faxing your request to 602-431-7155. Final determination will be made by the DES/DDD medical director prior to providing sterilization procedures for members enrolled with DES/DDD, in addition to Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC. Notification of approved requests will be faxed or mailed to the provider.

**8.08 - Reporting High-Risk and Non-Compliant Behaviors**

Obstetrical physicians and practitioners must refer all “at risk” members to MC’s Care Management department by calling 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879 and selecting the option for maternity care. Providers may also fax their information to 602-351-2313. The following types of situations must be reported to MC for members that:

- Are diabetic and display consistent complacency regarding dietary control and/or use of insulin.
- Fail to follow prescribed bed rest.
- Fail to take tocolytics as prescribed or do not follow home uterine monitoring schedules.
- Admit to or demonstrate continued alcohol and/or other substance abuse or opioid prescription history on CSPMP. Please refer to **Section 4.12 – Controlled Substances**
Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP) for information on signing up for this regulatory required program.

- Show a lack of resources that could influence well-being (e.g. food, shelter and clothing).
- Frequently visit the emergency department/urgent care setting with complaints of acute pain and request prescriptions for controlled analgesics and/or mood-altering drugs.
- Fail to appear for two or more prenatal visits without rescheduling and fail to keep rescheduled appointment. Providers are expected to make two attempts to bring the member in for care prior to contacting the MCCC Care Management Department.

8.09 - Outreach, Education and Community Resources
MC is committed to maternity care outreach. Maternity care outreach is an effort to identify currently enrolled pregnant women and to enter them into prenatal care as soon as possible. PCPs are expected to ask about pregnancy status when members call for appointments, report positive pregnancy tests to MC and to provide general education and information about prenatal care, when appropriate, during member office visits. Pregnant members will continue to receive primary care services from their assigned PCP during their pregnancy.

MC is involved in many community efforts to increase the awareness of the need for prenatal care. PCPs are strongly encouraged to actively participate in these outreach and education activities, including:

- The WIC Nutritional Program - Please encourage members to enroll in this program.

Various other services are available in the community to help pregnant women and their families. Please call MC’s Care Management department for information about how to help your patients use these services.

Questions regarding the availability of community resources may also be directed to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Hot Line at 800-833-4642.

8.10 - Providing EPSDT Services to Pregnant Members under Age 21
Federal and state mandates govern the provision of EPSDT services for members under the age of 21 years. The provider is responsible for providing these services to pregnant members under the age of 21, unless the member has selected an OB provider to serve as both the OB and PCP. In that instance, the OB provider must provide EPSDT services to the pregnant member.
Additional Claims Information
While these services are already performed in the initial prenatal visit, additional information is necessary for claims submission. The provider (PCP or OB) providing EPSDT services for members 12-20 years of age, must submit the medical claims for these members. When submitting claims, please include one of the following codes that reflect the appropriate EPSDT visit:

Ages 12 through 17 years
- New patient - 99384
- Established patient - 99394

Ages 18 through 20 years
- New patient - 99385
- Established patient - 99395

8.11 - Loss of AHCCCS Coverage during Pregnancy
Members may lose AHCCCS eligibility during pregnancy. Although members are responsible for maintaining their own eligibility, providers are encouraged to notify MC if they are aware that a pregnant member is about to lose or has lost eligibility. MC can assist in coordinating or resolving eligibility and enrollment issues so that pregnancy care may continue without a lapse in coverage. Please call Member Services at -602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879 to report eligibility changes for pregnant members.

8.12 - Pre-Selection of Newborn’s PCP
Prior to the birth of the baby, the mother selects a PCP for the newborn. The newborn is assigned to the pre-selected PCP after delivery. The mother may elect to change the assigned PCP at any time.

8.13 – Newborn Notification Process
Providers must fax a newborn notification to MCCC’s dedicated Profax number – 844-525-2221. MC will report newborn information to AHCCCS and in turn will fax back the newborn AHCCCS ID number to the provider.

Authorization Information
Well Newborn:
- No authorization is required for vaginal delivery (2 days).
• No authorization is required for cesarean section delivery (4 days).

Sick Newborn:
• Authorization will be created and faxed back to provider with newborn AHCCCS ID and authorization number.
MC Chapter 9 – Non-Emergency Transportation

9.00 – Non-Emergency Transportation
Non-emergency transportation shall be provided for members who are unable to provide or secure their own transportation for medically necessary services using the appropriate mode based on the needs of the member. The Provider shall ensure that members have coordinated, reliable, medically necessary transportation to ensure members arrive on-time for regularly scheduled appointments and are picked up upon completion of the entire scheduled treatment.

*Transportation services involve the transporting of a person from one place to another to facilitate the receipt of, or benefit from, medically necessary covered behavioral health services, allowing the person to achieve their service plan goals.*

9.01 – Covered Services
The Provider shall deliver medically necessary non-emergency transportation services under the following conditions:

- The medical or behavioral health service for which the transportation is needed is a covered MC service;
- The member is not able to provide, secure or pay for their own transportation, and free transportation is not available; and
- The transportation is provided to and from the nearest appropriate MC registered provider. (Behavioral Health Providers may schedule outings to grocery stores, parks, etc., which are not an MC registered provider, but is a part of the member’s treatment plan).
- Only the most cost-effective mode of transportation that meets the individual clinical needs of the member will be covered.
- The determination of the appropriate mode of transportation must be based upon the functional limitations of the member, and not as a matter of convenience for the member.

Definitions
The definitions related to covered transportation services are as follows:

- **Ambulatory Vehicle** – Ambulatory transportation means a vehicle other than a taxi but includes vans, cars, minibus or mountain area transport. The MC member must be able to transfer with or without assistance into the vehicle and not require specialized transportation modes.
Taxi – A vehicle that has been issued and displays a special taxi license plate pursuant to A.R.S. § 28-2515.

Wheelchair Van – The vehicle must be specifically equipped for the transportation of an individual seated in a wheelchair. Doors of the vehicle must be wide enough to accommodate loading and unloading of a wheelchair. Wheelchair vans must include electronic lifts for loading and unloading wheelchair bound transports. The vehicle must contain restraints for securing wheelchairs during transit. Safety features of wheelchair vans must be maintained as necessary. Any additional items being transported must also be secured for safety. The member must require transportation by wheelchair and must be physically unable to use other modes of ambulatory transportation.

Stretcher Van – The vehicle must be specifically designed for transportation of a member on a medically approved stretcher device. The stretcher must be secured to avoid injury to the member or other passengers. Safety features of stretcher vans must be maintained as necessary. Any additional items being transported must also be secured for safety. The MC member must need to be transported by stretcher and must be physically unable to sit or stand and any other means of transportation is medically contraindicated.

9.02 – Program Specific Requirements
The following must be adhered to:
- The member must not require medical care while on route;
- Passenger occupancy must not exceed the manufacturer’s specified seating occupancy;
- Members, escorts, and other passengers must follow state laws regarding passenger restraints for adults and children;
- Vehicle must be driven by a licensed driver, following applicable State laws;
- Vehicles must be insured;
- Vehicles must be in good working order; and
- Members must be transported inside the vehicle.

Non-emergency transportation must be provided in such a way as to ensure that:
- A person does not arrive sooner than one hour before their scheduled appointment; and
- A person does not have to wait for more than one hour after the conclusion of their appointment for transportation home or to another pre-arranged destination.
9.03 – Documentation Requirements
MC will conduct retrospective audits of non-emergency ground transportation providers to verify that the mileage, wait time, diagnosis, and medical necessity are correct and that all charges are supported and justifiable. The transportation provider will submit a trip report and justification of the transport upon request by MC any time after the date of service. Each service must be supported with the following documentation:

- Complete transport service provider’s name and address
- Printed name and signature of the driver who provided the service
- Vehicle identification (license # and state.)
- Vehicle type (car, van, wheel chair van, stretcher, etc.)
- Recipient’s full name
- Recipient’s AHCCCS ID#
- Recipient’s date of birth
- Complete date of service, including month, day and year
- Complete address of pick up destination
- Time of pick up
- Odometer reading at pick up
- Complete address of drop off destination
- Time of drop off
- Odometer reading at drop off
- Type of trip – one way or round trip
- Escort name and relationship to recipient being transported
- Signature (or fingerprint) of recipient* verifying services were rendered

Signature Clarification- If the member is unable to sign or utilize a fingerprint, the parent/guardian, caretaker/escort or family member can sign for the member. The relationship to the member must be noted. If the member that is unable to sign is traveling alone, the trip report may be signed by the provider at the medical or behavioral health service appointment. The driver can never sign for the member.

Any NEMT service over 100 miles will require submission of a trip ticket or EDI information noting the complete pick up and drop off locations for review prior to payment. Any NEMT over 100 miles without the required documentation will result in a claim denial.

9.04 – Data and Reporting
The Provider must submit all reports outlined in the MC Provider Manual and requested by MC staff.
MC reserves the right to include additional provider reporting requirements at any time it is deemed necessary.

**9.05 – Professional Standards and Responsibilities**

Professional Standards and Responsibilities include:

- The Provider will ensure all employees and drivers shall have a valid State driver’s license free of moving violations and will verify the driver’s records through AZ-DMV.
- The Provider shall meet all requirements for provider eligibility including:
  - Licensed by the appropriate State authority.
  - Registered with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS).
  - Credentialed with MC. MC is not responsible for payment to non-registered providers. The Provider shall ensure that independent drivers meet these same requirements.
- The Provider must deliver services when and where the individual needs them within the context of safety for the individual and staff providing the service.
- The Provider must maintain complete, accurate, and timely documentation of all delivered services.
- The Provider shall have enough qualified staff to deliver, manage and coordinate service delivery.
- The provider will provide additional support for individuals under 12 as clinically appropriate.
- The provider will attempt to utilize all appropriate ways to locate or contact the member prior to determining that the member is a “no-show”.
- The Provider will train all staff and subcontractors in accordance with the MC Provider Manual.
- Each driver should be trained on CPR and first aid every two years and HIPAA training annually.
- The Provider will adhere to all cultural competency requirements as outlined in the MC Provider Manual and Cultural Competency Plan, including cultural competency/sensitivity training, to all drivers and employees. All services provided must consider the member’s and their family’s language and cultural preferences.
- The Provider agrees to meet with MC on a quarterly basis or as needed to review and resolve grievance trends or service issues.
- The Provider must ensure that all subcontractors adhere to the requirements outlined in this scope of work.
9.06 – Vehicle Requirements

Vehicle Requirements include the following:

- Passenger occupancy must not exceed the manufacturer’s specified seating occupancy.
- Members, escorts and other passengers must follow State laws regarding restraints for adults and children.
- Members must be transported inside the vehicle.
- Vehicles must be insured and be driven by a licensed driver, following applicable State laws.
- Vehicles must be clean and maintained and be in good working order.
- All vehicles must have a sign or logo with the company name displayed when transporting a member.

9.07 – Performance Improvement

The Provider must maintain a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement program designed to evaluate the quality and accessibility of the services they deliver, and customer satisfaction with those services. This information must be collected on a routine and frequent basis, formally communicated to all levels of staff within the organization and used to improve service delivery to all individuals accessing the services outlined in this contract. The Provider’s performance improvement program must be described in detail in an Annual Quality Management Plan and Work plan. Each year, the Provider must evaluate its Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement program, incorporating successful programs and interventions into subsequent Plans, and discontinuing programs and interventions that did not meet established goals or yield performance improvements.

The Provider shall develop and maintain a process to collect and analyze member satisfaction information for all programs and report the results to MC.

9.08 – Performance Outcome Measures

The Provider must meet or exceed standards for the performance measures described below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Measure</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transport Timeliness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average drop off time prior to member appointment.</td>
<td>&lt; 60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average wait time for transportation after appointment completion</td>
<td>&lt; 60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Satisfaction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member satisfaction with services</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone Performance Standards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Service Level</td>
<td>≥75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Speed of Answer</td>
<td>&lt;30 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Abandonment Rate</td>
<td>≤5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint Rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Monthly Complaint Rate Per 1000 Trips</td>
<td>&lt;3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MC Chapter 10 – Behavioral Health Assessments and Treatment/Service Planning

10.00 – Behavioral Health Assessment and Service Planning Overview

MC supports a model for assessment, service planning, and service delivery that is individualized, member-centered, strength-based, inclusive of family and/or natural supports, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and clinically sound.

The model incorporates the concept of a “team”, established for each member receiving behavioral health services. For children, this team is the Child and Family Team (CFT) and for adults, this team is the Adult Recovery Team (ART).

At a minimum, the functions of the CFT and ART include:

- Ongoing engagement of the member, family and other formal and informal supports who are significant in meeting the behavioral health needs of the member, including their active participation in the decision-making process and involvement in treatment;
- An assessment process is conducted to elicit information on the strengths, needs and goals of the individual member and his/her family, identify the need for further or specialty evaluations, and support the development and updating of a service plan which effectively meets the member’s/family’s needs and results in improved health outcomes;
- Continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of treatment through the CFT and ART process, the ongoing assessment of the member, and input from the member and his/her team resulting in modification to the service plan, if necessary;
- Provision of all covered services as identified on the service plan, including assistance in accessing community resources, as appropriate and, for children, services which are provided in accordance with the Arizona Vision and 12 Principles, and for adults, services which are provided in accordance with the 9 Guiding Principles for Recovery Oriented Adult Behavioral Health Services and Systems;
- Ongoing collaboration, including the communication of appropriate clinical information, important to achieving positive outcomes (e.g., primary care providers, school, child welfare, juvenile or adult probation, other involved service providers);
- Oversight to ensure continuity of care by taking the necessary steps (e.g., clinical oversight, development of facility discharge plans, or after-care plans, transfer of relevant documents) to assist members who are transitioning to a different treatment program, (e.g., inpatient to outpatient setting), changing behavioral health providers.
and/or transferring to another service delivery system (e.g., out-of-area, out-of-state or to an Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) Contractor); and

- Development and implementation of transition plans prior to discontinuation or modification of behavioral health services.

For additional information regarding the Child and Family Team practice refer to AHCCCS Practice Protocol Child and Family Team Practice.

### 10.01 - Assessments

All individuals being served in the public behavioral health system must have a behavioral health assessment upon an initial request for services. For individuals who continue to receive behavioral health services, updates to the assessment must occur at least annually.

Behavioral health assessments must be utilized to collect necessary information that will inform providers of how to plan for effective care and treatment of the individual.

MC does not mandate that a specific assessment tool or format be utilized. However, assessment of substance use disorders and related levels of service provision using the current version of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) must be incorporated for members identified with substance use disorders.

The initial and annual assessment must be completed by a behavioral health professional (BHP) or behavioral technician (BHT) under the clinical oversight of a BHP, who is trained on the minimum elements of a behavioral health. If an assessment is conducted and documented by a BHT, a BHP must review and sign the assessment information that was documented by the BHT within 30 days of the BHT signature.

### 10.02 - Minimum elements of the behavioral health assessment

MC has established the following minimum elements that must be included in a comprehensive behavioral health assessment and documented in the comprehensive clinical record.

- Presenting issues/concerns;
- History of present illness, including review of major psychiatric symptoms (i.e., mood, depression, anxiety, psychosis, suicidal ideation, homicidal ideation, and other behavioral health symptoms) and frequency/duration of symptoms;
- Psychiatric history, including history of previous psychiatric hospitalization(s) and psychotropic medication trial(s);
- Medical history;
- Current medications, including over the counter (OTC) medications;
- Allergies and other adverse reactions;
- Developmental history for children/youth under the age of 18 and with other populations if clinically relevant;
- Trauma history for children/youth under the age of 18 and with other populations if clinically relevant;
- Family history,*
- Educational history/status; *
- Employment history/status;
- Housing status/living environment;
- Social history; *
- Legal history, including custody/guardianship status, pending litigation, Court Ordered Evaluation/Court Ordered Treatment (COE/COT) history, criminal justice history, and any history of sex offender adjudication;
- Substance use history including type of substance, duration, frequency, route of administration, longest period of sobriety, and previous treatment history;
- Standardized substance use screen for children age 11 to 18 and referral for comprehensive assessment when screened positive;
- Substance use screen for adults age 18 and older using the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria (current required version);
- Labs/ Diagnostics, if applicable;
- Mental Status Examination;
- Risk Assessment: the potential risk of harm to self or others based on self-reports, clinical symptoms, personality factors, history, substance use, criminogenic factors, etc.;
- Summary/Bio-Psycho-Social formulation;
- Axial Diagnoses I-V; and
- Date, begin, and end time of the assessment and printed name, signature, and professional credential of the provider completing the behavioral health assessment. If a privileged BHT completes the assessment, the assessment must also include a printed name, signature, professional credential, date and time of the privileged BHP who reviewed the assessment information.*
  - REQUIRED FOR ALL TITLE XIX/XXI MEMBERS: Primary Care Provider (PCP) name and contact information.

*Additionally, confirm that sexual abuse/behavior information was documented as part of the member’s Family, Educational, and Social History.
REQUIRED FOR ALL TITLE XIX/XXI MEMBERS: Involvement with other agencies (e.g., Department of Child Safety, Probation, Division of Developmental Disabilities).

ONLY REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN AGE 0 TO 5: Birth to Five Assessment to be completed within 90 days of intake, with a minimum of 2 documented observations to occur within a 45-60-day period and the first observation to occur within 21 days of intake. Recommendations for treatment to be reviewed with the Guardian/Primary Caregiver and Stakeholders within a Child and Family Team meeting. Developmental screening for children age 0-5 with a referral for further evaluation by the child’s Primary Care Provider (PCP), the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) for children age 0-3, or the public-school system for children age 3-5 when developmental concerns are identified.

ONLY REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN AGE 6 TO 18: Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII) Score and Date.

ONLY REQUIRED FOR CHILDREN AGE 6 TO 18 WITH CASII SCORE OF 4 OR HIGHER: Strength, Needs and Culture Discovery Document.

ONLY IF INDICATED: Seriously Mentally Ill Determination (for members who request SMI determination or have an SMI qualifying diagnosis).

For members referred for or identified as needing ongoing psychotropic medications for a behavioral health condition, the assessor must establish an appointment with a licensed medical practitioner with prescribing privileges. If the assessor is unsure regarding a member’s need for psychotropic medications, then the assessor must review the initial assessment and treatment recommendations with his/her clinical supervisor or a licensed medical practitioner with prescribing privileges.

Members with substance use disorders, primarily opioid addiction, may be appropriately referred to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). MAT services are a combination of medications and counseling/behavioral therapies to provide a “whole patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. MC contracts with network providers to specifically prescribe and/or dose medications to normalize brain chemistry, block the euphoric effects of alcohol and opioids, relieve physiological cravings and normalize body functions without the negative effects of the used drug. MC members may solely receive behavioral health services from contracted MAT providers; members may also receive behavioral health services from one agency and receive MAT services from another provider. Providers involved are required to provide care coordination to optimize treatment outcomes for these members.
10.03 - Provider Submits a Complex Case Request

In the event a provider determines a need for an action, they may complete a Complex Case Review Form available on our Forms web page and submit it to MC Medical Management at ComplexCase@MercyCareAZ.org for review. For additional guidance see Provider Manual, Title XIX/XXI Notice and Appeal Requirements, subsection Complex Case Requests. Medical Management staff will evaluate the request to determine if it requires a notice. If a notice is required, MC will issue the NOA in accordance with ACOM 414, Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination and Notices of Extension for Service Authorizations.

In cases that a member determined to have a Serious Mental Illness and/or legal or designated representative disagree with some or all of the Non-Title XIX/XXI covered services included in the service plan, the member and/or legal or designated representative must be given a Notice of Decision and Right to Appeal (For Individuals With a Serious Mental Illness) available on our Forms web page by the behavioral health representative on the team.

In either case, the member and/or legal or designated representative may file an appeal within 60 days of the action.

10.04 - Update to Assessment and Service Plan

BHPs must complete an annual assessment update with input from the member and family, if applicable, that records a historical description of the significant events in the member’s life and how the member/family responded to the services/treatment provided during the past year. Following this updated assessment, the service plan should then be updated as necessary. While the assessment and service plan must be updated at least annually, the assessment and service plan may require more frequent updates to meet the needs and goals of the member and his/her family.

Additionally, SMI Direct Care Clinics’ targeted thresholds for ISP and Assessments are identified as 85% per clinic/stand-alone ACT team (not per agency).

10.05 - Transfer Assessments

If a behavioral health assessment that complies with the assessment requirements is received from a behavioral health provider other than the intake agency or the intake agency has a medical record for the patient that contains an assessment that was completed within 12 months before the date of the patient’s current admission: (1) the patient’s assessment information is reviewed and updated, by a BHP, if additional information that affects the patient’s assessment is identified, by utilizing a collateral note. (2) The review and update of the
patient’s assessment information needs to be documented in the patient’s medical record within 48 hours after review.

**Please Note:** The following instances would not require a BHP review within 48 hours following assessment retrieval: (1) the provider is contracted with another behavioral health provider with whom a formal agreement has been made to provide services; (2) an intake agency receives a referral from another behavioral health provider, following intake (due to additional services being required outside of the array of services offered by the behavioral health provider performing the intake; i.e. HNCM).
MC Chapter 11 – Care Management and Disease Management

11.00 - Care Management and Disease Management Overview
MC has a comprehensive care management program. The Medical Care Management team considers the medical, social and cultural needs of members by targeting, assessing, monitoring and implementing services for members identified as "at risk." Care Management services are available for all eligible members, excluding MC members who are identified as "at risk," such as transplant and hemophilia, or those who are high-service utilizers, and are assigned a care manager.

A wide spectrum of services is available for members, providers and families who need assistance in finding and using appropriate health care and community resources. The MC Care Management staff:

- Considers the medical, social and cultural needs of members in targeting, assessing, monitoring and implementing services for members.
- Aids members and families in navigating through the complex medical and behavioral health systems.

Please refer to our Clinical Guidelines web page for treatment protocols under evidence-based guidelines related to:

- Asthma
- Alcohol Abuse
- ADHD
- CAD
- Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COPD)
- Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
- Diabetes
- HIV/AIDS
- Hypertension
- Major Depressive Disorder
- Opioids for Chronic Pain
- Immunizations
- Preventative Screenings
- Prenatal Services

In addition, the following information is available:

- Arizona Opioid Prescribing Guidelines
- Clinical Guidelines for the Treatment of Children
• Treating behavioral health disorders in children
• Treating behavioral health disorders in adults

11.01 - Referrals
The MC central intake coordinator accepts referrals from any source. Please call the central intake coordinator at 800-624-3879 or 602-263-3000 to make a referral. You may also fax a referral to 844-424-3975. For the most part, the central intake coordinator can respond to questions and resolve the issue during the initial call. However, a care management referral is initiated for members that require more than a single intervention. Care managers will contact the member either by telephone or by letter. The Care Management staff communicates with members, family and the PCP on an ongoing basis while the member’s care is open.

11.02 - Care Management
MC provides care management services to medically complex members. The members are assigned to an RN, LPN or social work care manager who works closely with the PCP and member to coordinate care and services. The care manager also collaborates with community resources, home health services and PCPs to coordinate medical care and assure appropriate access to medical and social services.

Members who meet any of the following criteria and do not fall under other identified categories of care management also will be considered for care management services:
- High utilizers of services
- Frequent inpatient readmissions
- Substance abusers
- Poor compliance with prescribed medical treatment
- Experiencing social problems that are impacting medical care
- Overuse of emergency department
- Complex care needs

A health assessment will be conducted of each member accepted into care management. A care plan will be developed and the member’s compliance with the plan will be monitored. The care manager interacts routinely with the PCP, the member and the member’s care giver/family.

11.03 - HIV/AIDS
Early identification and intervention of members with HIV allows the care manager to assist in developing basic services and information to support the member during the disease process. The care manager links the member to community resources that offer various services,
including housing, food, counseling, dental services and support groups. The member’s cultural needs are continually considered throughout the care coordination process.

The MC care manager works closely with the PCP, the MC corporate director of pharmacy, and an MC medical director to assist in the coordination of the multiple services necessary to manage the member’s care. PCPs wishing to provide care to members with HIV/AIDS must provide documentation of training and experience and be approved by the MC credentialing process. These PCPs must agree to comply with specific treatment protocols and AHCCCS requirements. PCPs may elect to refer the member to an AHCCCS approved HIV specialist for the member’s HIV treatment.

11.04 - High Risk OB
Members that have been identified as high-risk obstetrical patients, either for medical or social reasons, are assigned to an OB care manager to try to ensure a good newborn/mother outcome. Please refer to MC Chapter 8 – Maternity of this Provider Manual for additional information. The care manager may refer the expectant mother to a variety of community resources, including WIC, food banks, childbirth classes, smoking cessation, teen pregnancy care management, shelters and counseling to address substance abuse issues. A care manager monitors the pregnant woman throughout the pregnancy and provides support and assistance to help reduce risks to the mother and baby.

Care managers also work very closely with the PCP to make sure that the member is following through with all prenatal appointments and the prescribed medical regimen. Members with complex medical needs are also assigned a medical care manager so that all the member’s medical and perinatal care issues are addressed appropriately.

11.05 - Behavioral Health
The Care Management department is available to assist with referrals to RBHA and to help members who are experiencing problems related to behavioral health services. Please refer to MC Chapter 10 – Care Management and Disease Management, Section 10.05 – Behavioral Health of this Provider Manual for additional information.

11.06 - Disease Management
The Disease Management team administers disease management programs intended to enhance the health outcomes of members. Disease management targets members who have illnesses that have been slow to respond to coordinated management strategies in the areas of diabetes, respiratory (COPD, asthma), and cardiac (CHF). The primary goal of disease management is to positively affect the outcome of care for these members through education
and support and to prevent exacerbation of the disease, which may lead to unnecessary hospitalization.

The objectives of disease management programs are to:
- Identify members who would benefit from the specific disease management program.
- Educate members on their disease, symptoms and effective tools for self-management.
- Monitor members to encourage/educate about self-care, identify complications, assist in coordinating treatments and medications, and encourage continuity and comprehensive care.
- Provide evidence-based, nationally recognized expert resources for both the member and the provider.
- Monitor effectiveness of interventions.

The following conditions are specifically included in MC’s Disease Management programs and have associated Clinical Guidelines that are reviewed annually.

**11.07 - Asthma**
The Asthma Disease Management program offers coordination of care for identified members with primary care providers, specialists, community agencies, the members’ caregivers and/or family. Member education and intervention is targeted to empower and enable compliance with the physician’s treatment plan.

Providers play an important role in helping members manage this chronic disease by promoting program goals and strategies, including:
- Preventing chronic symptoms.
- Maintaining “normal” pulmonary function.
- Maintaining normal activity levels.
- Maintaining appropriate medication ratios.
- Preventing recurrent exacerbation and minimizing the need for emergency treatment or hospitalizations.
- Providing optimal pharmacotherapy without adverse effects.
- Providing education to help members and their families better understand the disease and its prevention/treatment.

**11.08 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**
The COPD Disease Management program is designed to decrease the morbidity and mortality of members with COPD. The goal of the program is to collaborate with providers to improve the quality of care provided to members with COPD, decrease complication rates and utilization
costs, and improve the members’ health. The objectives of the COPD Disease Management program are to:
- Identify and stratify members.
- Provide outreach and disease management interventions.
- Provide education through program information and community resources.
- Provide provider education through the COPD guidelines, newsletters and provider profiling.

11.09 - Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
The CHF Disease Management program is designed to develop a partnership between MC, the PCP and the member to improve self-management of the disease. The program involves identification of members with CHF and subsequent targeted education and interventions. The CHF Disease Management program educates members with CHF on their disease, providing information on cardiac symptoms, blood pressure management, weight management, nutritional requirements and benefits of smoking cessation.

11.10 - Diabetes
The Diabetes Disease Management program is designed to develop a partnership between MC, the PCP and the member to improve self-management of the disease. The program involves identification of members with diabetes and subsequent targeted education and interventions. In addition, the program offers providers assistance in increasing member compliance with diabetes care and self-management regimens. Providers play an important role in helping members manage this chronic condition. MC appreciates providers’ efforts in promoting the following program goals and strategies:
- Referrals for formal diabetes education through available community programs
- Referrals for annual diabetic retinal eye exams by eye care professionals as defined in MC’s Diabetes Management Clinical Guidelines
- Laboratory exams that include:
  - Glycohemoglobins at least twice annually
  - Micro albumin
  - Fasting lipid profile annually
- Management of co-morbid conditions like blood pressure, CHF, and blood cholesterol.

11.11 - Active Health
MC has contracted with Active Health Management to administer a patient health-tracking program that was implemented in October of 2008 with providers. Effective March of 2010, members will be receiving letters concerning their “Care Considerations” as well.
Active Health will expand MC’s opportunities to identify members at risk for poor health outcomes and to communicate directly with the providers who are responsible for their care, in a time-critical mode. It also enables the member to work closely with their physician to choose treatments and tests that are right for them. Active Health utilizes data received through claim, lab and pharmacy submissions to identify potential opportunities to meet evidence-based guidelines, such as through the addition of new therapies, avoidance of contraindications or prevention of drug interactions. When an opportunity is identified for our member, a formal patient-specific communication will be sent to the provider to assist in offering health care to the patient based upon the physician’s independent medical judgment. A “Care Consideration” letter will be sent to the member as well, encouraging them to discuss the “Care Consideration” with their physician.

It is important to note that this program is not a utilization review mechanism and does not constitute consultation. MC’s goal is to offer timely, accurate and patient-specific information to facilitate patient care and improve outcomes.

Examples of “Care Consideration” are:

- If the member is a diabetic and there are no records that the patient has had their eyes checked or an HgA1c lab has been done.
- If the patient has a heart condition and there are no records to show that the member is on any type of drug to lower cholesterol.
MC Chapter 12 – Concurrent Review

12.00 - Concurrent Review Overview
MC conducts concurrent utilization review on each member admitted to an inpatient facility, including skilled nursing facilities and freestanding specialty hospitals. Concurrent review activities include both admission certification and continued stay review. The review of the member’s medical record assesses medical necessity for the admission, and appropriateness of the level of care, using the Milliman Care Guidelines® and the AHCCCS NICU/Nursery/Step-Down Utilization Guidelines. Admission certification is conducted within one business day of receiving notification. It is the responsibility of the facility to notify MC of all member admissions and emergency department visits to assure that a service medical necessity review is conducted so that claims are not delayed. Services rendered without notification will result in the claim being held for retrospective review. Failure to notify MC of an admission or emergency department visit within ten (10) days of the encounter may result in denial of the claim.

Continued stay reviews are conducted by MC concurrent review staff before the expiration of the assigned length of stay for Behavioral Health and Skilled Nursing stays. Since Medical stays are calculated by APR-DRG, this doesn’t apply to those stays. Providers will be notified of approval or denial of length of stay. The concurrent review staff works with the medical directors in reviewing medical record documentation for hospitalized members. MC medical directors may make rounds on site as necessary. MC concurrent review staff will notify the facility care management department and business office at the end of the member’s hospitalization stay, by fax, of the days approved and at what level of care.

12.01 - MILLIMAN Care Guidelines®
MC uses the Milliman Care Guidelines® to ensure consistency in hospital–based utilization practices. The guidelines span the continuum of patient care and describe best practices for treating common conditions. The Milliman Care Guidelines® are updated regularly as each new version is published. A copy of individual guidelines pertaining to a specific care is available for review upon request.

12.02 - Discharge Planning Coordination
Effective and timely discharge planning and coordination of care are key factors in the appropriate utilization of services and prevention of readmissions. The hospital staff and the attending physician are responsible for developing a discharge plan for the member and for involving the member and family and assigned outpatient clinical teams in implementing the plan.
The MC Concurrent Review Staff (CRS) works with the hospital discharge team and attending physicians to ensure that cost-effective and quality services are provided at the appropriate level of care. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Assuring early discharge planning.
- Facilitating or attending discharge planning meetings for members with complex and/or multiple discharge needs.
- Providing hospital staff and attending physician with names of contracted MC providers (i.e., home health agencies, DME/medical supply companies, other outpatient providers). The CRS plays a key role in assisting with discharge planning and may authorize services required for a safe discharge such as pharmacy, home health and DME. MC CRS staff works to make sure there is a safe discharge even when the primary payer is not MC, so it is important that the facilities notify MC of all members.
- Informing hospital staff and attending physician of covered benefits as indicated.

**12.03 - Physician Medical Review**

Medical Directors review all admissions that do not meet criteria for the requested level of care or do not meet medical necessity criteria for admission. The Medical Director is the only staff member to deny a request. The CRS (Inpatient) or the prior authorization reviewer (Outpatient) reviews the documentation for evidence of medical necessity according to established criteria. When the criteria are not met, the case is referred to an MC medical director. The medical director reviews the documentation, discusses the care with the reviewer and may call the attending or referring physician for more information. The requesting physician may be asked to submit additional information. Based on the discussion with the physician or additional documentation submitted, the medical director will decide to approve, deny, modify, reduce, suspend or terminate an existing or pending service.

Utilization management decisions are based only upon appropriateness of care and service. MC does not reward practitioners, or other individuals involved in utilization review, for issuing denials of coverage or service. The decision to deny a service request will only be made by a physician.

For inpatient denials, hospital staff is verbally notified when MC is denying continued stay. The hospital will receive written notification with the effective date of termination of payment or reduction in level of care. The attending or referring physician may dispute the finding of the medical director informally by phone or formally in writing. If the finding of the medical
director is disputed, a formal claim dispute may be filed according to the established MC claim dispute process.
MC Chapter 13 – Pharmacy Management

13.00 - Pharmacy Management Overview
Prescription drugs may be prescribed by any authorized provider, such as a PCP, attending physician, dentist, etc. Prescriptions should be written to allow generic substitution whenever possible and signatures on prescriptions must be legible for the prescription to be dispensed. The Preferred Drug List (PDL) on our Pharmacy webpage, also referred to as a Formulary, identifies the medications selected by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T Committee) that are clinically appropriate to meet the therapeutic needs of our members in a cost effective manner.

13.01 - Updating the Preferred Drug Lists (PDLs)
MC’s PDLs are developed, monitored and updated by the P&T Committee. The P&T Committee continuously reviews the PDLs and medications are added or removed based on objective, clinical and scientific data. Considerations include efficacy, side effect profile, and cost and benefit comparisons to alternative agents, if available.

Key considerations:
- Therapeutic advantages outweigh cost considerations in all decisions to change PDLs. Market share shifts, price increases, generic availability and varied dosage regimens may affect the actual cost of therapy.
- Products are not added to the list if there are less expensive, similar products on the formulary.
- When a drug is added to the PDL, other medications may be deleted.
- Participating physicians may request additions or deletions for consideration by the P&T Committee. Requests should include:
  - Basic product information, indications for use, its therapeutic advantage over medications currently on the PDL.
  - Which drug(s), if any, the recommended medication would replace in the current PDL.
  - Any published supporting literature from peer reviewed medical journals.

MC may invite the requesting physician to the P&T Committee to support the addition to the PDL and answer related questions. However, MC does not permit pharmaceutical representatives to participate or attend P&T Committee meetings. All PDL requested additions should be sent to:
13.02 - Notification of PDL Updates
MC will not remove a medication from the PDL without first notifying providers and affected members. MC will provide at least 60 days’ notice of such changes. MC is not required to send a hard copy of the PDL each time it is updated, unless requested. A memo may be used to notify providers of updates and changes and may refer providers to view the updated PDL on the MC website. MC may also notify providers of changes to the PDL via direct letter. MC will notify members of updates to the PDL via direct mail and by notifying the prescribing provider, if applicable.

13.03 - Prior Authorization Required
Prior authorization is required:
- If the drug is not included on the PDL.
- If the prescription requires compounding.
- For injectable medications dispensed by a pharmacy, except for heparin and insulin.
  Note: If the member has a primary insurance that reimburses for injectable medications, MC will only coordinate benefits as the secondary payer if the MC pharmacy prior authorization process was followed.
- For injectable medications dispensed by the physician and billed through the member’s medical insurance, please call 602-263-3000 or toll-free 800-624-3879 to initiate prior authorization for the requested specialty medication.
- For medication quantities which exceed recommended doses.
- For specialty drugs which require certain established clinical guidelines be met before consideration for prior authorization.
- For certain medications on the PDL that are noted as requiring prior authorization or step therapy.

In instances where a prescription is written for drugs not on the PDL, the pharmacy may contact the prescriber to either request a PDL alternative or to advise the prescriber that prior authorization is required for non-PDL drugs. Please see Chapter 13 – Pharmacy Management, Section 13.13 – Request for Non-PDL Drugs for additional information.
Decision and Notification Standards
MC makes pharmacy prior authorization decisions and notifies prescribing practitioners/providers, and/or members in a timely manner, according to the standards defined below:

- MC makes decisions within 24 hours of the receipt of all necessary information.
- MC notifies requesting prescribing providers by fax, phone or electronic communication of the approved decisions within 24 hours of receipt of the submitted request for prior authorization.
- A request for additional information is sent to the prescriber by fax within 24 hours of the submitted request when the prior authorization request for a medication lacks enough information to render a decision. A final decision will be rendered within seven business days from the initial date of the request.
- If an authorization is denied, MC notifies members and practitioners and/or providers regarding how to initiate an expedited appeal at the time they are notified of the denial.
- MC will fill at least a 4-day supply of a covered outpatient prescription drug in an emergent situation.

13.04 - Over the Counter (OTC) Medications
A limited number of OTC medications are covered for MC members. OTC medications require a written prescription from the physician that must include the quantity to be dispensed and dosing instructions. Members may present the prescription at any MC contracted pharmacy. OTCs are limited to the package size closest to a 30-day supply. Some medications may require step therapy. Please refer to the Provider Drug List for more information.

13.05 - Generic vs. Brand
Generic medications represent a considerable cost savings to the health care industry and Medicaid program. As a result, generic substitution with A-rated products is mandatory unless the brand has been specifically authorized or as otherwise noted. In all other cases, brand names are listed for reference only.

13.06 - Diabetic Supplies
Diabetic supplies are limited to a one-month supply (to the nearest package size) with a prescription.

13.07 - Injectable Drugs
The following types of injectable drugs are covered when dispensed by a licensed pharmacist or administered by a participating provider in an outpatient setting:

- Immunizations
Chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer
Medication to support chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer
Glucagon emergency kit
Hemophilia medications including Ceprotin and Stimate Nasal Spray
Insulin; Insulin syringes
Immunosuppressant drugs for the post-operative management of covered transplant services
Rhogam

13.08 - Exclusions
The following items, by way of example, are not reimbursable by MC:
- DESI drugs (those considered less than effective by the FDA)
- Non-FDA approved agents
- Rogaine
- Any medication limited by federal law to investigational use only
- Medications used for cosmetic purposes
- Non-indicated uses of FDA approved medications without prior approval by MC
- Lifestyle medications (such as medications for sexual dysfunction)
- Medications used for fertility

13.09 - Family Planning Medications and Supplies
Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC administers the family planning benefit for MC that includes:
- Over-the-counter items related to family planning (condoms, foams, suppositories, etc.) are covered and do not require prior authorization. However, the member must present a written prescription, to the pharmacy including the quantity to be dispensed. A supply for up to 30-days is covered.
- Injectable medications, administered in the provider’s office, such as Depo-Provera will be reimbursed at the MC Fee Schedule, unless otherwise stated in the provider’s contract.
- Oral contraceptives are covered for MC members, through Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC.

13.10 - Behavioral Health Treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Anxiety, Depression and/or Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

PCP Medication Management Services: In addition to treating physical health conditions, MC will allow PCPs to treat behavioral health conditions within their scope of practice. Such treatment shall include but not be limited to substance use disorders, anxiety, depression, and
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). For purposes of medication management, it is not required that the PCP be the member’s assigned PCP. PCPs who treat members with these behavioral health conditions may provide medication management services including prescriptions, laboratory and other diagnostic tests necessary for diagnosis, and treatment. For the antipsychotic class of medications, prior authorization may be required.

For PCPs prescribing medications to treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), the PCP must refer the member to a behavioral health provider for the psychological and/or behavioral therapy component of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) model and coordinate care with the behavioral health provider.

Transfer of Care: When a PCP has initiated medication management services for a member to treat a behavioral health disorder, and it is subsequently determined by the PCP that the member should be transferred to behavioral health provider (including RBHA, AIHP, or TRBHA providers) for evaluation and/or continued medication management services, MC requires that the PCP coordinates the transfer of care.

13.11 - Request for Non-PDL Drugs
A physician requesting a change to MC’s Preferred Drug List (PDL) should include the following information in the request:
- Basic product information
- Indications for use
- Therapeutic advantage
- Which drug(s) it would replace in the current PDL
- Any supporting literature from medical journals

The requesting physician may be invited to attend the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meeting to support the PDL addition request and answer questions.

Requests should be sent to:
Aetna Medicaid Administrators, LLC
Mercy Care Corporate Pharmacy Director
4500 E. Cotton Center Blvd.
Phoenix, AZ 85040

13.12 – Discarded Physician-Administered Medications
Discarded federally and state reimbursable physician-administered medications shall not be billed to MC. A.A.C. R9-22-209(C) provides that pharmaceutical services are covered only if they
are prescribed. The unused portion of a physician administered drug is not covered because it’s not medically necessary or prescribed.

A.R.S. §36-2918(A)(1) prohibits a person from making a claim for an item or service that the person knows or has reason to know was not provided as claimed.

A.R.S. §36-2918(A)(3)(b) prohibits a person from submitting a claim for items and services that substantially exceed the needs of the patient.
MC Chapter 14 – Quality Management

14.00 - Quality Management Overview
MC works in partnership with providers to continuously improve the care given to our members. The MC Quality Management (QM) Department is comprised of the following areas:

- The Quality of Care Review unit monitors the quality of care provided by the PHP network, as well as the review and resolution of issues related to the quality of health care services provided to members.
- The Prevention and Wellness unit is responsible for quality improvement activities and clinical studies using data collected from providers and encounters. Findings are reported to AHCCCS and to providers about their performance on specific quality indicators.
- The Credentialing unit is responsible for provider credentialing/re-credentialing activities.
- The Performance Improvement Department monitors and improves HEDIS and other clinical performance measure rates, maternity, family planning and EPSDT quality indicators.

14.01 - Quality Management Plan
A quality management plan is developed each year to guide the efforts of the MC Quality Management (QM) department in accomplishing its goals for the upcoming year. The QM Department works closely with the chief medical officer (CMO) and the MC medical directors on all QM responsibilities. For more information about the MC Quality Management program, or to obtain a written summary of the program, please contact your Provider Relations Consultant/Specialist or call the QM Department at 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879.

14.02 - Quality of Care, Peer Review and Fair Hearing Process
The QM department reviews potential quality of care (QOC) issues referred by internal and external sources. Applicable medical records are requested from providers as needed for review. The QOC, peer review and fair hearing processes are all confidential. Each QOC issue is assigned a severity level based on potential adverse effect(s) for the member. In addition, cases are trended and reported to the QM/UM Committee. QOC Severity Levels are as follows:

- **Level 0** – (Track and Trend Only) - No quality issue finding.
- **Level 1** – Quality issue exists with minimal potential for significant adverse effects to the patient/recipient.
- **Level 2** – Quality issue exists with significant potential for adverse effect to the patient/recipient.
Level 3 - Quality issue exists with significant adverse effects on the patient/recipient, is dangerous or life-threatening.

Level 4 - Quality issue exists with the most severe adverse effects on the patient/recipient; no longer impacts the patient/recipient with the potential to cause harm to others.

14.03 - Escalation Process
All potential QOC issues involving health professionals are forwarded to the CMO or one of the MC medical directors for review. After review, it may be determined that a case should be referred to a specialist for further review. The case is sent to the medical care ombudsman. Program is sent for review by a provider in the same specialty as the subject provider.

If indicated by the evaluation conducted by the MC medical director or specialist review, the QOC case is forwarded to the Executive Session of the QM/Utilization Review (UM) Committee for peer review discussion, final determination and recommendation for action. Health professionals have the right to appeal adverse actions such as termination from MC.

To exercise this option, the appeal process for a fair hearing must be followed. A copy of the peer review/fair hearing policy is available to all providers upon request.

14.04 - Ambulatory Medical Record Review (AMRR)
Mercy Care participates with the AzAHP and AMRR Collaborative in utilizing an external vendor to monitor primary care EPSDT providers (PCPs), and Obstetrical/Gynecological providers. In addition, through the direction of the AMRR Collaborative, the external vendor will monitor primary care providers who treat adult members. AMRRs are performed under the direction of the CMO in collaboration with the Vice President of Quality Management. The Quality Management Department in association with the AMRR Collaborative is responsible for operations related to the reviews. Mercy Care, in partnership with the AMRR Collaborative, has developed comprehensive AMRR review tools which incorporate the AHCCCS and CMS required medical records standards and take into consideration professional and community standards, and accepted and recognized practice guidelines. The tools are:

- EPSDT PCP AMRR (Pediatrics)
- Obstetrical AMRR
- Adult (Internal Medicine) PCP AMRR

The reviews are conducted at least every three years. Mercy Care may conduct more frequent reviews independent of the external vendor or include additional participating physicians when
requested by the Mercy Care chief medical officer (CMO) or the Vice President of Quality Management. Mercy Care contracts include requirements that participating physicians/physician groups allow Plan and applicable regulatory agencies to have access to medical records of Mercy Care members when requested. Mercy Care may be required by the state regulators or CMS to review or audit a physician and/or physician group’s medical records in the course of an ambulatory medical record review (AMRR).

The steps for conducting a medical record review are:

- A letter or fax is sent from the vendor in advance to the provider’s office/office manager indicating the audit will be conducted and which member records should be sent to the vendor for review.
- The fax notification will indicate which documents in the members’ charts are needed for the audit review.
- A report will be created following the visit. The report will identify trends that were noted, as well as any significant areas that need follow up.
- The report will be sent to the physician’s office after the review is completed.
- Physicians with a low score may be asked to provide a quality improvement plan detailing method to improve future service delivery and documentation. Follow-up medical record reviews will be conducted as needed.

14.05 - Quality Management Studies
MC uses a variety of information sources to conduct quality management studies, including member medical records, claims, prior authorization logs, statistical reports and utilization review reports. As part of the quality improvement process, MC asks its provider network to assist in the collection of medical record information or other information as needed for special studies or reviews. The QM department is managing the following annual clinical studies.

- Reducing hospital readmissions
- Increasing utilization of E-Prescribing

14.06 - Data Collection and Reporting
The QM Department collects data and analyzes MC performance for the following indicators:

- Well-child visits in the first 15 months of life
- Well-child visits for members age 3-6
- EPSDT participation rates
- Childhood immunization (for members 24 months old)
- Adolescent immunization
- Annual dental visits for members age 1-20
- Preventive Dental Care
Clinical indicators are reviewed regularly to monitor progress. Findings and results of studies and surveys are shared with health professionals via newsletters.

**14.07 - Reports**

The QM department has developed reports for health professionals on the following topics:

- **Well woman:** A quarterly report of members who need a mammogram, cervical cancer screening or chlamydia screening.
- **Diabetes:** A quarterly report of members diagnosed with diabetes and diabetes-related services rendered during the past 12 months.
- **Immunizations:** A monthly report listing members due for one or more immunizations.
- **Well Child:** A monthly report listing members due for a Well Child visit.
- **HEDIS Star:** A quarterly report listing MCA members in need of one or more of the following services:
  - Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug Therapy for Rheumatoid Arthritis
  - Breast Cancer Screening
  - Controlling High Blood Pressure
  - Comprehensive Diabetes Care
  - Colorectal Cancer Screening
  - Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture
14.08 - Credentialing/Re-Credentialing

The Credentialing Committee (comprised of both network peer physicians and MC medical directors) reviews all credentialing information and forwards their recommendations to the CMO who presents the information to the Quality Management Oversight Committee and the MC’s Board of Directors for a final decision. Providers have the following rights:

- To review their application and information obtained from outside sources, (e.g. state licensing agencies and malpractice carriers) except for references, recommendations or other peer-review protected information.
- To correct erroneous information submitted by another source. MC will notify credentialing applicants if information obtained from other sources (e.g. licensure boards, National Practitioner Data Bank, etc.) varies substantially from that provided by the applicant.

14.09 - Streamlining Process

MC is dedicated to improving and streamlining credentialing processes and timelines for those providers credentialed and re-credentialed directly through MC. In addition, contractual relationships have been developed to delegate credentialing and re-credentialing activities to approved, qualified outside entities throughout the state. This practice has been put into place to decrease the time spent completing multiple credentialing applications for providers belonging to one of these entities, and to ensure a complete and comprehensive network for MC members.

Providers’ credentialed/re-credentialed through a delegated entity must still be approved through the MC Board of Directors prior to providing health care services to members. Providers are re-credentialed every three years and must complete the required reappointment application. Updates of malpractice coverage, state licenses and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) certificates, if applicable, are also required. The MC Special Needs Unit (SNU) coordinates care and services with the carve-out programs for MC members enrolled in one or more of the following programs:

- AZ Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities.

MC performs the following activities:

- Assists in resolving coordination of benefit issues.
- Monitors timeliness of services delivered by MC providers.
- Provides information or clarification to parents/guardians and providers.
Ensures services are provided by the appropriate resource – either MC or carve out program.
Serve as the MC liaison for the state agencies listed above, and their contractors and DD services.

For members with a developmental disability, activities include coordination of benefits with DES/DDD and private insurance carriers; consultation with other MC departments to ensure that they receive medically necessary services; monitoring the timeliness of service delivery; providing information to members and their parents/guardians and providers; and coordinating with DES/DDD support managers regarding long term care and other services that members are also entitled to receive.

14.10 - Incident, Accident, Death Reporting Processes
The incident, accident, death reporting process is comprised of the following:
- Receipt of an incident, accident, death report form:
  All reported events of incident, accident, death reports are submitted by providers into the AHCCCS Quality Management System (QMS) Web Portal system within 48 hours of the occurrence to MC.
- AHCCCS QMS is located the following link:

Below is a list of all reportable events that pertain to enrolled members with an open episode of care (EOC), **but not limited to**:
- Deaths
- Medication Error(s)
- Abuse or Neglect Allegation made about/involving staff member(s)
- Suicide Attempt
- Self-Inflicted Injury
- Injury Requiring Emergency Treatment
- Physical Injury that occurs because of a personal, chemical, or mechanical restraint
- Unauthorized absence from a licensed behavioral health facility, group home or HCTC of children or recipients under court ordered treatment
- Suspected or alleged criminal activity
- Discovery that a client, staff member, or employee has a communicable disease as listed in A.A.C. R9-21, Article 2
- Discrimination
- Exploitation
• Coercion
• Manipulation
• Retaliation for submitting complaint to Authorities
• Threat of discharge/transfer for punishment
• Treatment involving denial of food
• Treatment involving denial of opportunity to sleep
• Treatment involving denial of opportunity to use toilet
• Use of Restraint/Seclusion as retaliation
• Health Care-Acquired and Provider Preventable Conditions as described in the AHCCCS AMPM Chapter 900

Internal Review, Identification and Monitoring of AHCCCS QMS Web Portal System by MCAZ Quality Management

The Quality Management Department is responsible for reviewing, identifying, and monitoring all reported events of incident, accident and death reporting. The process includes:

• Quality Management Consultant and/or Quality Management Manager reviews AHCCCS QMS web portal system daily for potential quality care of care (QOC) concerns and performs appropriate follow up with contracted providers through triage review and process.
• Incident, Accident, Death events that are identified as QOC concerns are handled and managed via the Quality of Care process. Please refer to the MC Policy 8000.62D QOC Reporting and Monitoring.
• As per AMPM Chapter 900, Policy 960, if an adverse action is taken with a provider for any reason including those related to quality of care concern, MC must report the adverse action to the AHCCCS Clinical Quality Management within 24 hours of the determination to take an adverse action as well as to the National Practitioner Data Bank
  a) A QOC investigation is opened if the incident, accident, death event includes a reportable:
    a. Death
    b. Member Rights Violation
    c. Safety/Risk Management
    d. Medication Error
  b) A QOC investigation may also be opened if an incident, accident, death event presents a concern/issue that appears to have the potential of precipitating into one of the following categories:
    a. Abuse
b. Availability, Accessibility, Adequacy

c. Denial, Decrease, or Discontinuation of a Covered Benefit(s)

d. Effectiveness/Appropriateness of Care

e. Hospital Acquired Conditions

• Incident, Accident, Death events that are not identified as a QOC concern and do not meet QOC criteria are closed out with no further action and documented as such within the AHCCCS QMS web portal system.

The Quality Management Department is responsible for producing trend reports from the AHCCCS Quality Management System (QMS) web portal data system and to track and evaluate providers, and:

• If significant negative trends are noted, the Quality Management Department may recommend the topic for one of its performance improvement activities to improve the process, and to make improvements that address other system issues raised in the resolution process. The case may also be reviewed by the Quality Management Committee

• All Incident, Accident, Death events are redacted in the AHCCCS QMS web portal system with an additional review and manual redaction by a QM designee to ensure all member information is protected. These IAD reports are then submitted weekly via the AHCCCS QMS web portal system to the Maricopa Human Rights Committee by COB every Friday.

Notifications

External

• AHCCCS Quality Management Department is notified via the AHCCCS QMS web portal system of:
  a) All Incident, Accident, Death event closures
  b) All Incident, Accident, Death events that meet the QOC process criteria and are opened as a QOC

• Any significant or egregious incident, accident, death events are reported to AHCCCS Quality Management Department on the same day of reported incident by the Quality Management Manager

Internal

• Any significant or egregious incident, accident, death events that are reported to the MC Chief Medical Officer, Quality Management Manager and Quality Management Administrator.
Reporting

- Maricopa Human Rights Committee weekly submission due on every Friday COB.
- AHCCCS Quality Management weekly QOC report indicating which incident, accident, death events were opened as a quality of care concern.
15.00 – Peer and Family Support Services

Peer and family services are a vital part of member- and family-centered care. When you put a member and their family at the center of their care, the individual’s voice is strengthened, and recovery and resiliency can remain the primary focus for all involved in the care for loved ones experiencing mental illness.

Peer and family support services usually operate in conjunction with clinical services which amplify the benefits of treatment by engaging peers in services they might otherwise not accept, offering ongoing support and psychosocial rehabilitation, and encouraging peers to stay in treatment and services by sharing their stories of recovery.

Peer and family support services are a valuable addition to traditional care, and these services are known to contribute to improved outcomes in employment, education, housing stability, satisfaction, self-esteem, medication adherence, and decrease in the need for more costly services, such as hospitalizations. Peer-provided services help to foster recovery, increase treatment and service engagement, reduce acute care use, and improve quality of life.

Peer and family services are available to all Mercy RBHA Title 19 and Non-Title 19 members and their families within the clinic setting as well as at community-based service organizations. Based on member’s choice and/or if peer and/or family support services is not available in the clinic where services are provided, a referral is needed prior to engaging in these supportive services.

15.01 – Incorporating Peer and Family Voice and Choice in Integrated Care Service Delivery

Advisory Councils

All providers must establish and maintain an Advisory Council made up of individuals receiving services at that provider clinic, direct service staff, clinic leadership, and relevant community members/neighbors.

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide a formal structure and process for individuals receiving services and their family members or loved ones to participate in organizational decision making and to have regular dialogue with clinic leaders. The Council provides an opportunity for individuals and their family members, direct clinic staff and vested community
members to participate and be involved in improving the delivery of services, improving the environment in which services are provided, and enhancing customer service.

Leadership for the council will consist of a chair, co-chair and an advisory council facilitator/note taker. The chair and co-chair positions will be held by either individuals receiving service and/or family members/loved ones. The advisory council facilitators and note taker duties will be administered by clinic staff.

Advisory Councils will meet monthly for a minimum of one hour. Advisory council leadership is to ensure at least 2 members and 1 family member be present and in attendance during the council meeting. The meeting’s agenda must allot time for the members/family members or loved ones to voice their concerns and ideas regarding the clinic. Guest speakers can also be present to discuss resources and relevant system education for members and their families.

Monthly meeting minutes need to be taken and posted in the clinic lobby for public consumption and comment. Meeting minutes, sign-in sheets and agendas will be retained and distributed to the Mercy Care Office of Individual and Family Affairs (OIFA) representative by the first business day of the following month.

Advisory Councils will be entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing member feedback and making recommendations for continuous improvement to the provider leadership. Provider leadership is expected to attend Advisory Council meetings.

When applicable, the Mercy OIFA will assist the council to implement actions, solutions or requests developed at the meetings. OIFA will be available to the Advisory Councils for assistance, as well as participation in the meetings, when appropriate.

Peer, Youth and Family Engagement and Participation Committee Involvement and Participation
Mercy RBHA encourages all members and their families to become involved in a way that is comfortable to them and allows them to voice concerns, provide input, make recommendations, and participate in decision-making. All committee participants will be provided with a description of their rights, roles and responsibilities as described below.

Individual and Family Rights
- Participate in dialogue and discussions as an equal participant;
- Have input valued and respected by other committee member and participants;
Receive information in a time frame that allows for the review of materials prior to the meeting;
Receive adequate notice of scheduled meetings;
Have questions answered in a respectful manner;
Have opportunities to attend trainings on their roles and responsibilities, reviewing data, or other topics that will support their meaningful participation on the committee;
Make recommendations that are equally considered by the committee;
Participate in workgroups or subcommittees, as needed and appropriate;
Participate equally in decision-making by the committee; and
Have access to a Mercy RBHA staff member to support their participation in the committee through coaching and technical assistance.

Peer, Youth and Family Roles
- Participate in the review of all quality improvement measures and performance indicators;
- Participate in the review of community facing educational and marketing materials;
- Participate in monitoring service delivery and development;
- Provide input on the quality of services provided to the community;
- Assist in identifying gaps in services;
- Identify community needs and work with committee members to develop recommendations to fill those needs;
- As a committee participant, submit to the Mercy RBHA Governance Committee recommendations regarding ways to improve the delivery of mental health and substance use services;
- Provide advice and consultation regarding development of new models of service delivery;
- Observe, report, and participate in strategic planning; and
- Share insights and information about their experiences in ways that others can learn from them.

Peer, Youth and Family Responsibilities
- Participate in scheduled trainings;
- Attend meetings;
- Inform the committee lead if unable to attend a meeting;
- Stay informed about issues impacting the behavioral health delivery system;
- Review all materials presented within specified time frames;
- Provide thoughtful input;
- Work toward fulfilling the committee/workgroup’s objectives;
Mercy Care Provider Manual – Chapter 100 – MC - General Terms

- Carry out individual assignments within specified timeframes;
- Focus on the best interests of the behavioral health delivery system;
- Consult with consumers, providers and RBHA staff to develop a better understanding of differing viewpoints, as well as the potential impact of service proposals on the greater community;
- Deal with one another and the greater community in ways that respect the dignity and worth of all members; and
- Encourage communication that clarifies intent

**Engagement and Involvement of Members and Family Members in Service Planning and Delivery**

To ensure the inclusion of peer and family members, Mercy RBHA’s contracted service providers are responsible for carrying out the activities that comprise effective engagement and involvement of members and family members in service planning and service delivery. The contracted providers are responsible for facilitating the building of rapport and encouragement of individuals to include others, such as family members, relatives, and other natural supports in the process.

Behavioral health services will be done in an effective and recovery-oriented fashion and delivered through a strengths-based assessment and service planning approach. The model incorporates the concept of a “team”, established for each member receiving behavioral health services.

For children, this team is the Child and Family Team (CFT) and for adults, this team is the Adult Recovery Team (ART). At a minimum, the functions of the Child and Family Team and Adult Recovery Team include initial and ongoing engagement of the member, family and others who are significant in meeting the behavioral health needs of the member, including their active participation in the decision-making process and involvement in treatment.

The team process emphasizes a family friendly, culturally sensitive and clinically sound model that focuses on identification of the member and family strengths. The process includes engagement and input from those members being served, as well as their family and significant others, and focuses on identifying the member’s and team member’s preferences.

Mercy RBHA requires the following from subcontractors and providers:
- The ability to welcome and engage family members in the member’s service planning and service delivery as full partners in the planning, delivery and evaluation of services and supports;
• Demonstration of the ability to include family members viewpoint in the service planning and service delivery processes;
• Encourage and engage family members to participate, be active and respected as part of the member’s team;
• During the assessment process, establish that the service assessment and service planning process is viewed as a partnership and is a team approach;
• During the Individual Service Plan (ISP) development, the assessor will identify the unique strengths, needs and preferences of the member, family/caregiver and identified team members. The needs (and associated services) identified in the ISP will be tailored to the unique strengths, values and beliefs of each individual member and their family, and will be updated as members progress toward recovery and their goals evolve;
  o All Individual Service Planning (ISP) and development with children is completed collaboratively with the child’s parent and/or primary caregiver;
  o Development and prioritization of ISP goals are not focused solely on the child, but include the parent, caregiver and the needs of the family as a whole;
• All ISP should consider the inclusion of community and natural supports;
• Providers are required to adhere to AHCCCS Clinical Guidance Tool Family and Youth Involvement in the Children’s Behavioral Health System.
• Provide support to family members to assist in eliminating barriers preventing them from actively participating on the member’s team, and;
• Establish a mechanism that will provide family support be accessible to families to help engage the family and to help the individual best utilize their natural support network;
• Establish partnerships with peer-run and family-run organizations to co-facilitate trainings on peer and family-professional partnerships, and;
• Partner with peer and family-run organizations in the delivery of training on peer-to-peer and family-to-family roles for Peer and Parent/Family Support Provider roles employed in the system.

Mercy RBHA requires providers to demonstrate documentary evidence to show participation of at least one peer, youth or family during the interview process when hiring for all direct services staff positions. Mercy RBHA requires affiliated RBHA providers to have at least one peer/recovery support specialist assigned on each adult recovery team.
MC Chapter 16 – Referrals and Authorizations

16.00 - Referral Overview

It may be necessary for a MC member to be referred to another provider for medically necessary services that are beyond the scope of the member’s PCP. For those services, providers only need to complete their own Referral Form and refer the member to the appropriate MC PHP. MC’s website includes a provider search function for your convenience. More information is available in this Provider Manual under section MC Chapter 4 – Provider Requirements, Section 4.44 – Mercy Care Web Portal concerning prior authorizations.

There are two types of referrals:

- Participating providers (particularly the member’s PCP) may refer members for specific covered services to other practitioners or medical specialists, allied healthcare professionals, medical facilities, or ancillary service providers.
- Member may self-refer to certain medical specialists for specific services, such as an OB/GYN.

Referrals must meet the following conditions:

- The referral must be requested by a participating provider and be in accordance with the requirements of the member’s benefiting plan (covered benefit).
- The member must be enrolled in MC on the date of service(s) and eligible to receive the service.

If MC’s network does not have a PHP to perform the requested services, members may be referred to out of network providers if:

- The services required are not available within the MC network.
- MC prior authorizes the services.

If out of network services are not prior authorized, the referring and servicing providers may be responsible for the cost of the service. The member may not be billed if the provider fails to follow MC’s policies. Both referring and receiving providers must comply with MC policies, documents, and requirements that govern referrals (paper or electronic) including prior authorization. Failure to comply may result in delay in care for the member, a delay or denial of reimbursement or costs associated with the referral being changed to the referring provider. Referrals are a means of communication between two providers servicing the same member. Although MC encourages the use of a Referral Form, it is recognized that some providers use telephone calls and other types of communication to coordinate the member’s medical care.
This is acceptable to MC, if the communication between providers is documented and maintained in the members’ medical records.

16.01 - Referring Provider’s Responsibilities

- Confirm that the required service is covered under the member’s benefit plan prior to referring the member.
- Confirm that the receiving provider is contracted with MC.
- Obtain prior authorization for services that require prior authorization or are performed by a non-PHP.
- Complete a Referral Form and mail or fax the referral to the receiving provider.

16.02 - Receiving Provider’s Responsibilities

PHPs may render services to members for services that do not require prior authorization and that the provider has received a completed MC referral form (or has documented the referral in the member’s medical record). The provider rendering services based on the referral is responsible to:

- Schedule and deliver the medically necessary services in compliance with MC’s requirements and standards related to appointment availability.
- Verify the member’s enrollment and eligibility for the date of service. If the member is not enrolled with MC on the date of service, MC will not render payment regardless of referral or prior authorization status.
- Verify that the service is covered under the member’s benefit plan.
- Verify that the prior authorization has been obtained, if applicable, and includes the prior authorization number on the claim when submitted for payment.
- Inform the referring provider of the consultation or service by sending a report and applicable medical records to allow the referring provider to continue the member’s care.

16.03 - Period of Referral

Unless otherwise stated in a PHP’s contract or MC documents, a referral is valid for the full extent of the member’s care starting from the date it is signed and dated by the referring provider, if the member is enrolled and eligible with MC on the date of service.

16.04 - Maternity Referrals

Referrals to Maternity Care Health Practitioners may occur in two ways:

- A pregnant MC member may self-refer to any MC contracted Maternity Care Practitioner.
• The PCP may refer pregnant members to a MC contracted Maternity Care Practitioner.

At a minimum, Maternity Care Practitioners must adhere to the following guidelines:
• Coordinate the members maternity care needs until completion of the postpartum visits.
• Schedule a minimum of one postpartum visit at approximately six weeks postpartum.
• When necessary, refer members to other practitioners in accordance with the MC referral policies and procedures.
• Schedule return visits for members with uncomplicated pregnancies consistent with the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology standards:
  o Through twenty-eight weeks of gestation – every four weeks
  o Between twenty-nine- and thirty-six-weeks’ gestation every two weeks
  o After the thirty sixth week – once a week
  o Schedule first-time appointments within the required time frames
  o Members in first trimester – within seven calendar days
  o Members in third trimester – within three calendar days
  o High-risk Members – within three calendar days of identification or immediately when an emergency condition exists.

16.05 - Ancillary Referrals
All practitioners and providers must use and/or refer to MC contracted ancillary providers.

16.06 - Member Self-Referrals
MC members can self-refer to participating providers for the following covered services:
• Family Planning Services
• OB Services
• GYN Services
• Dental Services for Members Under Age 21
• Vision services for Members Under Age 21
• Behavioral Health Services

When a member self refers for any of the above services, providers rendering services must adhere to the same referral requirements as described above.
16.07 - Prior Authorization
MC requires prior authorization for select acute outpatient services and planned hospital admissions. Prior authorization is not required for the following:

• Emergency services
• Prior authorization is no longer required for observation, due to the change in pricing at APR-DRG.

Prior authorization guidelines are reviewed and updated regularly. To request an authorization, to find out what requires authorization, or check on the status of an authorization, please visit Mercy Care Web Portal. More information is available in this Provider Manual under section MC Chapter 4 – Provider Requirements, Section 4.44 – Mercy Care Web Portal concerning authorizations. You may also call our Prior Authorization department at 602-263-3000 or 800-624-3879 (toll-free).

Mercy Care has recently reduced the amount of services that require prior authorization. To review codes that require prior authorization, please click on the following links by line of business:

• Mercy Care Prior Authorization Codes
• Mercy Care RBHA Prior Authorization Codes
• GMH/SU & Non-title Services Prior Authorization Codes

In addition, we also provide a Prior Authorization Code Changes – FAQ. We are in the process of updating a centralized listing through our ProPat tool. In the meantime, you can use the attached listings.

16.08 - Types of Requests

• Expedited Service Authorization Request: A request for services in which either the requesting provider indicates, or the MC determines that following the standard timeframes for issuing an authorization decision could seriously jeopardize the member’s life or health or ability to attain, maintain, or regain maximum function. In these circumstances, the authorization decision must be expedited and must be made within 72 hours from the date of receipt of the service request. If the due date for an expedited authorization decision falls on a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) or legal holiday as defined by the State of Arizona, the expedited decision must be made on the day preceding the weekend or holiday.

• Expedited Authorization Request Downgraded to a Standard Request: When MC receives an expedited request for a service authorization and the requested service is
not of an expedited medical nature, the MC will downgrade the expedited authorization request to a standard request.

- **Standard Service Authorization Request**: A request from the member, the representative, or a provider for a service for the member. The authorization decision must be made within 14 calendar days from the date of receipt of the service request.

### 16.09 – Medical Prior Authorization

The Prior Authorization team is responsible for processing prior authorization requests for non-emergency, elective procedures and services that are in our prior authorization code list, referenced above.

### 16.10 – Complex Radiology Service Authorizations

eviCore healthcare administers prior authorization services for complex radiology and pain management services for MC. Services requiring authorization but performed without authorization may be denied for payment, and you may not seek reimbursement from members.

Prior authorization is required for the following complex radiology services:

- CT/CTA
- MRI/MRA
- PET

Services performed in conjunction with an inpatient stay, observation, or emergency room visit are not subject to authorization requirements.

To request an authorization from eviCore healthcare, please submit your request online, by phone or by fax to:

- Log onto the [eviCore healthcare Online Web Portal](#).
- Call eviCore healthcare at 888-693-3211.
- Fax an [eviCore healthcare Request Form](#) (available online at the eviCore healthcare Online Web Portal) to 888-693-3210.

**For urgent requests**: If services are required in less than 48 hours due to medically urgent conditions, please call eviCore healthcare’s toll-free number for expedited authorization reviews. Be sure to tell the representative the authorization is for medically urgent care. eviCore healthcare recommends that ordering physicians secure authorizations and pass the authorization numbers to the rendering facilities at the time of scheduling. eviCore healthcare
will communicate authorization decisions by fax to both the ordering physicians and requested facilities. Authorizations contain authorization numbers and one or more CPT codes specific to the services authorized. If the service requested is different than what is authorized, the rendering facility must contact eviCore healthcare for review and authorization prior to claim submission.

16.11 – Bariatric Surgery Criteria

Bariatric surgery is covered by MC if there are evidence-based criteria to support the need for the surgery. The following information must be documented and met:

- Certificate of Seminar Attendance and class attendance.
- 2 years of medical records (must include documented weight history) and if possible a monthly summary.
- A BMI of 35 or greater, along with one comorbidity.
- Six-month physician supervised diet. It must be consecutive and within the last two years. Each monthly visit must be documented and signed by the physician. For your convenience, MC has a Bariatric Surgery Monthly Summary Form on our Forms web page that must be filled out. This form is available under the Forms section of our website or by clicking on the link. Documentation includes:
  - The date the patient was seen
  - The patient’s weight
  - Detailed documentation of the weight loss program the patient is following, including progress or non-progress
  - A BMI of 35 or greater, along with one comorbidity
  - Exercise activity (increase/decrease). If there is an inability to exercise this must be documented as to why
  - A Food/Exercise journal must be reviewed on monthly visits with the PCP
  - Letter of recommendation from the Primary Care Physician documenting medical necessity.
  - One consultation of a Nutritionist or Dietician, as soon as possible.
  - Psychological Evaluations (including MMPI) are only necessary for a patient who has an established behavioral health diagnosis. It is recommended this be completed by the fourth month into the program. A behavioral health condition may be exacerbated or may interfere with the long-term management of the patient after the procedure.
  - Cardiac clearance and pulmonary clearance are recommended for patients. MC requires the actual test results and a letter stating that the patient is cleared for surgery by the Cardiologist and the Pulmonologist, respectively.
MC maintains a list of approved Bariatric Surgeons to conduct the surgery, Nutritionist/Dieticians to provide nutritional counseling, as well as contracted psychologists to provide evaluations for bariatric surgery (only if the patient has an existing behavioral health diagnosis). Please contact our member services department to get a list.

Member steps for approval requirements for bariatric surgery are as follows:

- Attend Bariatric seminar of surgeon of choice
- Obtain a referral to a Bariatric surgeon.
- Start requirements with monthly documentation of diet/exercise with primary care doctor (six consecutive months).
- Obtain a referral to dietician/nutritionist (as soon as possible after seminar and consult with surgeon).
- Start food/exercise journal as soon as possible, documenting everything (and how much) the patient eats and drinks, daily. The amount of exercise and type must be tracked as well. Members should discuss with their PCP at their monthly visit and results should be documented in the PCP’s notes. The PCP’s notes are the notes reviewed by MC.
- Fourth month into program, obtain referrals for clearances to the Psychologist (if needed based on an existing behavioral health diagnosis), Cardiology and Pulmonary physicians.
- Support groups are recommended (all surgeons have their own groups). Members will need to find their own transportation. MC will transport to first meeting only,
- The PCP writes all referrals.
- When all requirements are completed, the member will have documenting PCP send the six months of documentation, including clearances and past medical history to the bariatric surgeon.
- The process of getting the paperwork reviewed and signed by the surgeon to send to health plan may take several weeks.

**16.12 - Pharmacy Prior Authorization**

The Pharmacy Prior Authorization team is responsible for processing prior authorization requests for the following:

- Medications not included in the MC’s PDL, also referred to as a formulary.
- Medications that require prior authorization.
- Step Therapy medications.
- Medications with Quantity Limits.
A team of registered pharmacists and certified pharmacy technicians authorize based on a set of pre-established clinical guidelines. Refer to Chapter 13 – Pharmacy Management in this Provider Manual for additional information.

**Electronic Prior Authorization (ePA)**
Mercy Care is committed to making sure our providers receive the best possible information, and the latest technology and tools available.

We have partnered with CoverMyMeds® and SureScripts to provide you a new way to request a pharmacy prior authorization through the implementation of Electronic Prior Authorization (ePA) program.

With Electronic Prior Authorization (ePA), you can look forward to:

- Time saving
- Decreased paperwork, phone calls and faxes for prior authorization requests
- Quicker determinations
- Reduced average wait times, resolution often within minutes
- Accommodating and Secure
- HIPAA compliant via electronically submitted requests

Getting started is easy. Choose ways to enroll:

- **No cost required! Let us help get you started!**
- Visit the CoverMyMeds® website
- Call CoverMyMeds® toll-free at **866-452-5017**
- Visit the SureScripts website
- Call SureScripts toll-free at **866-797-3239**

Billing Information:
- BIN: 610591
- PCN: ADV
- Group: RX8805

**16.13 - Nutritional Assessment and Nutritional Therapy**
MC covers nutritional assessment and nutritional therapy for members over 21 on an enteral, parenteral or oral basis when determined medically necessary to provide either complete daily dietary requirements, or to supplement a member’s daily nutritional and caloric intake.

The following requirements apply:
• Must be assessed at each visit.
• Members in need of nutritional assessment or nutritional therapy should be identified and referred to a registered dietician in MC’s network.
• Members in need of nutritional supplements may be referred to Option 1 Nutrition Solutions, LLC, MC’s contracted DME provider for these services.
• Nutritional therapy requires prior authorization and approval by MC. To determine prior authorization, MC requires the AHCCCS Attachment C – Certificate of Medical Necessity for Commercial Oral Nutritional Supplements for Members 21 Years of Age or Greater – Initial or Ongoing Request form found on the AHCCCS website, along with clinical notes, supporting documentation and evidence of required criteria as indicated in the Certificate of Medical Necessity be sent to Option 1 Nutrition Solutions, LLC. Their fax number is 480-883-1193. Option 1 will contact MC to request prior authorization.

For detailed information regarding Nutritional Assessment and Nutritional Therapy, please refer to the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual (AMPM), Chapter 300 - 310-GG Nutritional Assessments and Nutritional Therapy found on the AHCCCS website.

16.14 – Metabolic Medical Foods
Members who have been diagnosed with the following genetic metabolic conditions and who need metabolic medical foods may receive services through their genetics provider. MC covers medical foods, within the limitations specified in the AHCCCS Medical Policy Manual, (AMPM), Chapter 300 – 320-H Metabolic Medical Foods found on the AHCCCS website, for any member diagnosed with one of the following inherited metabolic conditions:
• Phenylketonuria
• Homocystinuria
• Maple Syrup Urine Disease
• Galactosemia (requires soy formula)
• Beta Keto-Thiolase Deficiency
• Citrullinemia
• Glutaric Acidemia Type I
• Methylcrotonyl CoA Carboxylase Deficiency
• Isovaleric Acidemia
• Methylmalonic Acidemia

16.15 - Extensions and Denials
If MC requires additional clinical documentation to decide on the prior authorization request, MC will extend the turnaround time for an additional fourteen (14) calendar days. MC will notify the provider and member of this extension and detail the request for additional
documentation. If the requested supporting documentation is not received within the requested timeframe, MC may deny the request for prior authorization on the date that the timeframe expires.

16.16 - Prior Authorization and Referrals for Services

- **Laboratory Services and Referrals:** Prior authorization is NOT required for approved in office lab procedures that are on MC’s in-office labs code list. MC is contracted with Sonora Quest to provide laboratory services. Please refer to our Claims Processing Manual on our Claims Information web page under Chapter 2 – Professional Claim Types by Specialty, Section 2.0 – Laboratory for a listing of MC’s in-office labs code list.

- **Radiology Services Referrals:** Prior authorization IS required before referring members for certain radiology services. To request an authorization, find out what requires authorization or check on the status of an authorization, please visit Mercy Care Web Portal.

- **Infusion or Enteral Therapy Referrals:** Prior authorization is NOT required to refer members to a contracted infusion or enteral provider. However, any medically necessary services rendered by an infusion, enteral provider or through a home health agency must be prior authorized. All infusion medications must be processed through the MC PBM (Pharmacy Benefit Manager) pharmacy benefit. Referrals may be processed through the PBM. All enteral needs are processed through the nutritional therapy contracted provider for MC and comply with medical necessity criteria.

- **Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Referrals:** Prior authorization is NOT required to refer members to a contracted DME provider. However, certain services may require prior authorization, as indicated in the provider’s contract.

- **DES/DDD Prior Authorization:** Prior authorization IS required. For members enrolled in the Department of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DES/DDD) health professionals must obtain prior authorization from MC by faxing your request to 602-431-7155. Final determination will be made by the DES/DDD medical director prior to providing sterilization procedures for members enrolled with DES/DDD, in addition to Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC. Notification of approved requests will be faxed or mailed to the provider.

16.17 - Prior Authorization and Coordination of Benefits

If other insurance is the primary payer before MC, prior authorization of a service is not required, unless it is known that the service provided is not covered by the primary payer. If the service is not covered by the primary payer, the provider must follow MC’s prior authorization rules.
16.18 - Prior Authorization Contacts

Inpatient Hospital and Hospice Services
Fax: 800-217-9345

Pharmacy Prior Authorization
Fax: 800-854-7614 (Toll Free)

Behavioral Health
Fax: 1-855-825-3165
MC Chapter 17 – Billing Encounters and Claims

17.00 - Billing Encounters and Claims Overview
The MC Claims department is responsible for claims, resubmissions, claims inquiry/research and provider encounter submissions to AHCCCS.

All providers who participate with MC must first register with AHCCCS to obtain an AHCCCS Provider Identification Number. Please contact AHCCCS directly for this number. Once you have obtained your 6-digit AHCCCS provider ID, notify Provider Relations.

Billing
17.01 - When to Bill a Member
A member may be billed when the member knowingly receives non-covered services.
- Provider MUST notify the member in advance of the charges.
- Provider should have the member sign a statement agreeing to pay for the services and place the document in the member’s medical record.

MC members may NOT be billed for covered services or for services not reimbursed due to the failure of the provider to comply with MC’s prior authorization or billing requirements. Please refer to Arizona Revised Statute A.R.S. §36-2903.01 (L) and Administrative Codes R9-22-702, R9-27-702, R9-28-702, R9-30-702 I and R9-31-702 for additional information. Arizona Administrative Code R9-22-702 states in part, “an AHCCCS registered provider shall not do either of the following, unless services are not covered or without first receiving verification from the Administration [AHCCCS] that the person was not an eligible person on the date of service:

1. Charge, submit a claim to, or demand or collect payment from a person claiming to be AHCCCS eligible; or
2. Refer or report a person claiming to be an eligible person to a collection agency or credit reporting agency”

MC members should not be billed or reported to a collection agency for any covered services your office provides.

Provider may NOT collect copayments, coinsurance or deductibles from members with other insurance, whether it is Medicare, a Medicare HMO or a commercial carrier. Providers must bill MC for these amounts and MC will coordinate benefits. Unless otherwise stated in contract, MC adjudicates payment using the lesser of methodology and members may not be billed for any remaining balances due to the lesser of methodology calculation.
17.02 - Prior Period Coverage

On occasion, AHCCCS eligible members are enrolled retrospectively into MC. The retrospective enrollment is referred to as Prior Period of Coverage (PPC). Members may have received services during PPC and MC is responsible for payment of covered services that were received.

For services rendered to the member during PPC, the provider must submit PPC claims to MC for payment of covered benefits. The provider must promptly refund, in full, any payments made by the member for covered services during the PPC period.

While prior authorization is not required for PPC services, MC may, at its discretion, retroactively review medical records to determine medical necessity. If such services are deemed not medically necessary, MC reserves the right to recoup payment, in full, from the provider. The provider may not bill the member.

Encounters

17.03 - Encounter Overview

An encounter is a record of an episode of care indicating medically necessary services provided to an enrolled member. To comply with federal reporting requirements, AHCCCS requires the submission of claims and encounters for all services provided to enrolled members. Fines and penalties are levied against MC for failure to correctly report encounters in a timely manner. MC may pass along these financial sanctions to a provider that fails to comply with encounter submissions.

17.04 - When to File an Encounter

Encounters should be filed for all services provided, even those that are capitated. MC uses the encounter information to determine if care requirements have been met and establish rate adjustments.

17.05 - How to File an Encounter

To comply with federal reporting requirements, the AHCCCS Administration conducts program integrity studies on a random sample of members’ medical records to compare recorded utilization information with submitted encounter data. The study evaluates the correctness or omission of encounter data. It is imperative that claims and encounters are submitted with correct procedure and diagnosis coding, and that the codes entered on the claim correspond to the actual services provided as evidenced in the member’s medical record.

Services rendered must also coincide with the category of service listed on the provider record with AHCCCS. If services do not coincide, claims will be reversed, and monies recouped. If
Providers do not properly report all encounters, MC may be assessed monetary penalties for noncompliance with encounter submission standards. We may then pass these financial sanctions on to providers or terminate contracts with providers who are not complying with these standards.

**Claims**

**17.06 - When to File a Claim**

All claims and encounters must be reported to MC, including prepaid services.

**17.07 - Timely Filing of Claim Submissions**

Unless a contract specifies otherwise, MC ensures that for each form type (Dental/Professional/Institutional) 95% of all clean claims are adjudicated within 30 days of receipt of the clean claim and 99% are adjudicated within 60 days of receipt of the clean claim.

MC shall not pay:

- Claims initially submitted more than six months after date of service for which payment is claimed or after the date that eligibility is posted, whichever date is later; or
- Claims that are submitted as clean claims more than 12 months after date of service for which payment is claimed or after the date that eligibility is posted, whichever date is later (A.R.S.§36-2904.G).

Regardless of any subcontract with MC, when one AHCCCS Contractor recoups a claim because the claim is the payment responsibility of another AHCCCS Contractor (responsible Contractor); the provider may file a claim for payment with the responsible Contractor. The provider must submit a clean claim to the responsible Contractor no later than:

- 60 days from the date of the recoupment,
- 12 months from the date of service, or
- 12 months from date that eligibility is posted, whichever date is later.

The responsible Contractor shall not deny a claim based on lack of timely filing if the provider submits the claim within the timeframes above.

Claim payment requirements pertain to both contracted and non-contracted providers.

**17.08 - MC as Secondary Insurer**

MC is the payer of last resort. It is critical that you identify any other available insurance coverage for the patient and bill the other insurance as primary. For example, if Medicare is primary and MC is secondary.
- File an initial claim with MC if you have not received payment or deny from the other insurer before the expiration of your required filing limit. Make sure you are submitting timely to preserve your claim dispute rights.
- Upon the receipt of payment or denial by the other insurer, you should then submit your claim to MC, showing the other insurer payment amount or denial reason, if applicable, and enclosing a complete legible copy of the remittance advice or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from the other insurer.
- When a member has other health insurance, such as Medicare, a Medicare HMO or a commercial carrier, MC will coordinate payment of benefits.
- In accordance with requirements of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, MC will pay co-payments, deductibles and/or coinsurance for AHCCCS Covered Services up to the lower of either MC’s fee schedule or the Medicare/other insurance allowed amount.

Effective July 1, 2018, Claims should be initially submitted within 150 days from the date of service for a first submission to retain appeal rights, whether the other insurance explanation of benefits has been received or not.

Claims should be resubmitted within one year from the last date of service or 60 days from the date of the other insurance explanation of benefits, whichever is later, once the other insurance explanation of benefits is received.

17.09 - Dual Eligibility MCA Cost Sharing and Coordination of Benefits

Coordinating MCA Benefits with Mercy Care (except for Mercy Care RBHA) – For MCA members enrolled in both Mercy Care (either Mercy Care Complete Care, Mercy Care Long Term Care and Division of Developmental Disabilities lines of business) and MCA, any cost sharing responsibilities will be coordinated between the two payers. For the most part, providers only need to submit one claim to Mercy Care. Once the claim has been paid by Mercy Care Advantage, the claims payment information will cross over to Mercy Care and benefits will be automatically coordinated. There may be exceptions to this, which are covered in this chapter under the section titled Instruction for Specific Claim Types.

Coordinating MCA Benefits with Mercy Care RBHA – For MCA members enrolled in both Mercy Care RBHA and MCA, any cost sharing responsibilities will be coordinated between the two payers. Once the claim has been paid by Mercy Care Advantage, a remit will be sent to the provider. Mercy Care RBHA follows the CMS COBA process. Unfortunately, this may involve delays in getting the claims to cross-over to Mercy Care RBHA to coordinate benefits. To expedite claims payment, we recommend that the provider submit the MCA Explanation of
Benefits, along with the claim, to Mercy Care RBHA. This will allow benefits to be coordinated quicker.

As a reminder, Medicaid is the payer of last resort. It’s very important to verify eligibility on all plans the member may be covered under to determine who the claim should be sent to and how the claim should coordinate.

**17.10 - Injuries due to an Accident**

In the event the member is being treated for injuries suffered in an accident, the date of the accident should be included on the claim for MC to investigate the possibility of recovery from any third-party liability source. This is particularly important in cases involving work-related injuries or injuries sustained as the result of a motor vehicle accident.

**17.11 - How to File a Claim**

1) Select the appropriate claim form (refer to table below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Claim Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Professional Services</td>
<td>Form 1500 (02-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Planning Services – Medical</td>
<td>Form 1500 (02-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Planning Service – Hospital Inpatient</td>
<td>CMS UB-04 Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Planning Service – Outpatient or</td>
<td>Form 1500 (02-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Obstetrical Care</td>
<td>Form 1500 (02-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obstetrical Care</td>
<td>Form 1500 (02-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Inpatient, Outpatient, Skilled Nursing Facility and Emergency Room Services</td>
<td>CMS UB-04 Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Dental Services for <strong>Mercy Care RBHA Only</strong></td>
<td>ADA 2012 Claim Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Services that are Considered Medical Services (Oral Surgery, Anesthesia)</td>
<td>Form 1500 (02-12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Instructions on how to fill out the each of the claim forms can be found in our Claims Processing Manual, available on our [Claims](#) web page or in the AHCCCS Fee For Service Manual, as follows:

- [Form 1500 (02-12) Completion Instructions](#)
- [UB-04 (CMS 1450) Form Completion Instructions](#)
- [ADA Dental Claim Form Completion Instructions](#)

2) Complete the claim form.
a) Claims must be legible and suitable for imaging and/or microfilming for permanent record retention. Complete ALL required fields and include additional documentation when necessary.

b) The claim form may be returned unprocessed (unaccepted) if illegible or poor-quality copies are submitted or required documentation is missing. This could result in the claim being denied for untimely filing.

3) Submit original copies of claims electronically or through the mail (do NOT fax or hand-deliver). To include supporting documentation, such as members’ medical records, clearly label and send to the Claims department at the correct address.

   a) Electronic Clearing House - Providers who are contracted with MC can use electronic billing software. Electronic billing ensures faster processing and payment of claims, eliminates the cost of sending paper claims, allows tracking of each claim sent and minimizes clerical data entry errors. Additionally, a Level Two report is provided to your vendor, which is the only accepted proof of timely filing for electronic claims.

   - The EDI vendors that MC uses are as follows:
     - Change Healthcare
     - SPSI
     - SSI
   - Contact your software vendor directly for further questions about your electronic billing.
   - Contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant for more information about electronic billing.

   Additional information can be attained by reviewing MC’s Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 1 – General Claims Processing Information, Section 1.3 – Electronic Tools and Mercy Care Web Portal.

   All electronic submission shall be submitted in compliance with applicable law including HIPAA regulations and MC policies and procedures.

b) Through the Mail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claims</th>
<th>Mail To</th>
<th>Electronic Submission*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical</td>
<td>Mercy Care</td>
<td>Through Electronic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Care Complete Care</td>
<td>Mercy Care Claims Department</td>
<td>Clearinghouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Mercy Care Long Term Care</td>
<td>P.O. Box 52089</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phoenix, AZ 85072-2089</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
17.12 - Correct Coding Initiative
MC and AHCCCS follow the same standards as Medicare’s Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) policy and perform CCI edits and audits on claims for the same provider, same recipient, and same date of service. For more information on this initiative, please review the CMS website under National Correct Coding Initiative Edits.

MC utilizes ClaimCheck as our comprehensive code auditing solution that will assist payers with proper reimbursement. Correct Coding Initiative guidelines will be followed in accordance with both AHCCCS and CMS, in addition to pertinent coding information received from other medical organizations or societies.

Clear Claim Connection is a web-based stand-alone code auditing reference tool designed to mirror MC’s comprehensive code auditing solution through ClaimCheck. It enables MC to share with our providers the claim auditing rules and clinical rationale inherent in ClaimCheck.

Providers will have access to Clear Claim Connection through MC’s website through a secure login. Clear Claim Connection coding combinations can be used to review claim outcomes after
a claim has been processed. Coding combinations may also be reviewed prior to submission of a claim so that the provider can view claim auditing rules and clinical rationale prior to submission of claims.

Further detail on how to use Clear Claim Connection can be found on the application itself by using the help link. Clear Claims Connection can be found after logging in to Mercy Care Web Portal or the Mercy Care RBHA Web Portal.

17.13 - Correct Coding
Correct coding means billing for a group of procedures with the appropriate comprehensive code. All services that are integral to a procedure are considered bundled into that procedure as components of the comprehensive code when those services:

- Represent the standard of care for the overall procedure, or
- Are necessary to accomplish the comprehensive procedure, or
- Do not represent a separately identifiable procedure unrelated to the comprehensive procedure.

17.14 - Incorrect Coding
Examples of incorrect coding include:

- “Unbundling” - Fragmenting one service into components and coding each as if it were a separate service.
- Billing separate codes for related services when one code includes all related services.
- Breaking out bilateral procedures when one code is appropriate.
- Down coding a service to use an additional code when one higher level, more comprehensive code is appropriate.

17.15 - Modifiers
Appropriate modifiers must be billed to reflect services provided and for claims to pay appropriately. MC can request copies of operative reports or office notes to verify services provided. Common modifier issue clarification is below:

Modifier 59 – Distinct Procedural Services - must be attached to a component code to indicate that the procedure was distinct or separate from other services performed on the same day and was not part of the comprehensive service. Medical records must reflect appropriate use of the modifier. Modifier 59 cannot be billed with evaluation and management codes (99201-99499) or radiation therapy codes (77261 -77499).
Modifier 25 – Significant, Separately Identifiable Evaluation and Management Service by the Same Physician on the Same Day of the Procedure or Other Service - must be attached to a component code to indicate that the procedure was distinct or separate from other services performed on the same day and was not part of the comprehensive service. Medical records must reflect appropriate use of the modifier. Modifier 25 is used with evaluation and management codes and cannot be billed with surgical codes.

Modifier 50 – Bilateral Procedure - If no code exists that identifies a bilateral service as bilateral, you may bill the component code with modifier 50. MC follows the same billing process as CMS and AHCCCS when billing for bilateral procedures. Services should be billed on one-line reporting one unit with a 50 modifier.

Modifier 57 – Decision for Surgery – must be attached to an Evaluation and Management code when a decision for surgery has been made. MC follows CMS guidelines regarding whether the Evaluation and Management will be payable based on the global surgical period. CMS guidelines found in the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 12 – Physicians/Non-physician Practitioners indicate:

“Carriers pay for an evaluation and management service on the day of or on the day before a procedure with a 90-day global surgical period if the physician uses CPT modifier "-57" to indicate that the service resulted in the decision to perform the procedure. Carriers may not pay for an evaluation and management service billed with the CPT modifier "-57" if it was provided on the day of or the day before a procedure with a 0 or 10-day global surgical period.”

EP Modifier – Service provided as part of a Medicaid early periodic screening diagnosis and treatment [EPSDT] program – must be appended to CPT code 96110 to receive additional developmental screening tool payment. For additional information please refer to our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 3 – Early Periodic Screening and Developmental Testing (EPSDT), which is available on our website.

SL Modifier – State Supplied Vaccine – If a vaccine is provided through the VFC program, the SL modifier must be added to both the vaccine code and the vaccine administration code. For additional information please refer to our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 3 – Early Periodic Screening and Developmental Testing (EPSDT), Section 3.4 – Vaccines for Children Program, which is available on our website.

17.16 - Medical Claims Review
To ensure medical appropriateness and billing accuracy, any inpatient and outpatient outlier claims are sent for Medical Claims Review.

17.17 - Checking Status of Claims
Providers may check the status of a claim by accessing MC’s secure website or by calling the Claims Inquiry Claims Research (CICR) department.

**Online Status through MC’s Secure Website**
MC encourages providers to take advantage of using online status, as it is quick, convenient, can be used off-hours, and used to determine status for multiple claims. To register, go to Mercy Care Web Portal or Mercy Care RBHA Web Portal and Log In or contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant to establish a Login. More information is available in this Provider Manual under section MC Chapter 4 – Provider Requirements, Section 4.44 – Mercy Care Web Portal. The Mercy Care Web Portal is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week to providers. Using Mercy Care Web Portal will make better use of your time and allow us to focus on more complex claim questions for both you and other providers calling in.

**Calling the Claims Inquiry Claims Research Department**
Claim status calls are limited to 3-member status requests during our peak business hours (between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Unlimited status requests will be answered during non-peak hours.

The Claims Inquiry department is also available to:
- Answer questions about claims.
- Assist in resolving problems or issues with a claim.
- Provide an explanation of the claim adjudication process.
- Help track the disposition of a claim.
- Correct errors in claims processing:
  - Excludes corrections to prior authorization numbers (providers must call the Prior Authorization department directly).
Excludes rebilling a claim (the entire claim must be resubmitted with corrections, see section MC Chapter 17 – Billing Encounters and Claims, Section 17.19 - Claim Resubmission or Reconsideration.

Please be prepared to give the service representative the following information:

- Provider name and AHCCCS provider number with applicable suffix if appropriate.
- Member name and AHCCCS member identification number.
- Date of service.
- Claim number from the remittance advice on which you have received payment or denial of the claim.

17.18 - Payment of Claims

MC processes and records the payment of claims through a Remittance Advice. Providers may choose to receive checks through the mail or electronically. MC encourages providers to take advantage of receiving Electronic Remittance Advices (ERA), as you will receive much sooner than receiving through the mail, enabling you to post payments sooner. Please contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant for further information on how to receive ERA. Remittance Advice samples are available under the Forms section of the MC website. Links to those remits are available under the section MC Chapter 17 – Billing Encounters and Claims, Section 17.30 - Provider Remittance Advice in this Provider Manual.

Through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), providers can direct funds to a designated bank account. MC encourages you to take advantage of EFT. Since EFT allows funds to be deposited directly into your bank account, you will receive payment much sooner than waiting for the mailed check. You may enroll in EFT by submitting an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Form available on our Forms web page. Submit this form along with a voided check to process the request. Please allow at least 30 days for EFT implementation. Your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant will assist you with this.

Additional information can be attained by accessing the Claim Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 1 – General Claims Processing Information, Section 1.3 – Electronic Tools and Mercy Care Web Portal on MC’s website.
17.19 - Claim Resubmission or Reconsideration

Providers have 12 months from the date of service to request a resubmission or reconsideration of a claim. A request for review or reconsideration of a claim does not constitute a claim dispute.

Providers may resubmit a claim that:
- Was originally denied because of missing documentation, incorrect coding, etc.
- Was incorrectly paid or denied because of processing errors.

When filing resubmissions or reconsiderations, please include the following information:
- Use the Resubmission Form located under the Forms section of MC’s website.
- An updated copy of the claim. All lines must be rebilled or a copy of the original claim (reprint or copy is acceptable).
- A copy of the remittance advice on which the claim was denied or incorrectly paid.
- Any additional documentation required.
- A brief note describing requested correction.
- Clearly label as “Resubmission” or “Reconsideration” at the top of the claim in black ink and mail to appropriate claims address as indicated in Claim Address Table.

Resubmissions and reconsiderations can be submitted electronically, however, we are unable to accept electronic attachments at this time.

If billing a resubmission electronically, you must submit with:
- Professional Claims - A status indicator of 7 in the submission form location and the Original Claim ID field need to be filled out.
- Facilities – In the Bill Type field, the last number of the 3-digit code should be a 7.

If you need to submit attachments to your resubmission claims, please submit by paper, as we currently do not accept attachments. This is currently under testing and we will let you know when it is available.

When submitting paper resubmissions, failure to mail and accurately label the resubmission or reconsideration to the correct address will cause the claim to deny as a duplicate.

17.20 - Overpayments

Under Section 6402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act it states:

“Section 6402 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) amends the Social Security Act (SSA) to include a variety of Medicare and Medicaid program integrity...
provisions that enhance the federal government’s ability to discover and prosecute provider fraud, waste, and abuse. Among the provisions that may have a significant impact on States are newly imposed requirements for health care providers to report any overpayments from Medicaid and Medicare.

Under a new Section 1128J(d) of the SSA, any provider of services or supplies under Medicaid or Medicare must report and return “overpayments,” which the statute defines as “any funds that a person receives or retains under either program “to which the person, after applicable reconciliation, was not entitled[.]” A “person” is defined as “a provider of services, supplier, Medicaid managed care organization..., Medicare Advantage organization..., or [Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan] sponsor[].” PPACA § 6402(a). It does not include a beneficiary.

The overpayment must be returned within 60 days from the date the overpayment was “identified,” or by the date any corresponding cost report was due, whichever is later. This provision of the law became effective May 22, 2010.

To properly return an overpayment, the individual who has received an overpayment must:

return the payment to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (Secretary), the State, an intermediary, a carrier, or a contractor, as appropriate, at the correct address; and notify the Secretary, State, intermediary, carrier, or contractor to whom the overpayment was returned the reason for the overpayment in writing.

Failure to return an overpayment has severe consequences. If an overpayment is retained beyond the 60-day deadline, PPACA Section 6402 makes clear that it will be considered an “obligation” under the FCA. As amended by the Fraud Enforcement Recovery Act of 2009 (FERA), the FCA subjects a person to a fine and treble damages if he or she knowingly conceals or knowingly and improperly avoids or decreases an “obligation” to pay money to the federal government. PPACA treats Medicaid and Medicare overpayments alike in stating that failing to refund an overpayment will be considered an “obligation” under the FCA.”

Whether an overpayment is identified directly by the provider or an overpayment request letter is sent to the provider by MC, the refund along with any supporting documentation should be sent to:
Supporting documentation must include:
- The overpayment claim number(s); and/or
- The remittance advice specific to the overpayment.

**Instruction for Specific Claim Types**

**17.21 - MC General Claims Payment Information**
MC claims are always paid in accordance with the terms outlined in the PHP’s contract. Prior authorized services from Non-PHPs will be paid in accordance with AHCCCS processing rules.

**17.22 – Inpatient Claims**
MC processes inpatient claims at APR-DRG in accordance with AHCCCS requirements. Please refer to our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 4 – Inpatient Claims for additional detail.

**17.23 – Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)**
Special billing rules apply to FQHCs. Please refer to our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 5 – Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) Prospective Payment System (PPS) Processing for additional detail on how these claims should be billed.

**17.24 - Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)**

**Acute Care Skilled Nursing Facility Stay**
Providers submitting claims for SNFs should use the CMS UB-04 Form. Please refer to our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 6 – Skilled Nursing Facility Claims for additional detail on how these claims should be billed.

**Long Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility Stay**
Therapy (occupational, physical, or speech) services performed in a SNF for Subacute Care Levels II and III (Codes 193 and 194) are included in the per diem. The SNF may be reimbursed for therapy services for the Custodial Level (codes 0081, 0082 and 0083) of stay and all other levels. The therapy services must be billed on the UB-04 along with the Custodial Level.
ALTCS recipients are required to contribute toward the cost of their care. This is called Share of Cost (SOC). When a recipient's eligibility for ALTCS is approved, a notice is generated which identifies the amount of SOC the recipient owes. SOC change notices are sent to nursing facilities for any change that might occur to the SOC amount due. The identified SOC provided by AHCCCS is deducted from the payment owed for the claim. If a patient transfers from one facility to another in a month’s time and the total SOC could not be applied to the first facility, the remainder will be carried over to the second facility’s claim.

Customized Durable Medical Equipment (DME), including customized wheelchairs and specialty beds such as Clinitron bed, may be covered by Medicaid in a SNF when prior authorized. Alternating pressure mattresses and pumps are included in the per diem.

Bariatric products and/or services are covered by Medicaid if they are authorized and it is not a Bariatric Level of stay. All other ancillary services are included in the SNF per diem. Some services can be paid under Medicare Part B.

If a member has MCA as primary coverage, providers must bill in accordance with standard Medicare RUG billing requirement rules for MCA. The coordinating claim on the Medicaid side will require separate billing in accordance with the provider contract. This is one of the few situations where billing requirements differ on the MCA side versus the MCLTC side.

Please refer to the Claims Processing Manual, available on our Claims web page, Chapter 6 – Skilled Nursing Facility Claims on MCLTC’s website.
17.25 - Dental Claims
Services provided by an anesthesiologist or medically related oral surgery procedure should be submitted on Form 1500 (02/12). Please refer to our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 2 – Professional Claims by Specialty, Section 2.11 – Dental Claims, as well as Section 2.12 – Oral Surgery Claims on MC’s website for additional claims information.

17.26 – Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
MC covers reasonable and medically necessary durable medical equipment (DME) when ordered by a primary care provider or a practitioner within certain limits based on member age and eligibility. Durable Medical Equipment (DME) may be purchased or rented. Total expense of the rental must not exceed the purchase price of the item.

All Customized Wheelchairs, Customized Hospital Beds and Augmentative Communication Devices must be provided within 90 days from when MCCC receives the initial request for authorization to the delivery of the equipment from the provider.

Providers are expected to coordinate with MC on monthly reporting, which is required by AHCCCS. This reporting measures both MC’s and vendors’ performance on insuring that the member receives the services timely.

17.27 - Family Planning Claims
- Claims for medical services will only be accepted on Form 1500 (02/12).
- Inpatient hospitalizations, outpatient surgery and emergency department facility claims should be filed on CMS UB-04 Form.
- Please refer to our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 2 – Professional Claim Types by Specialty, Section 2.14 – Family Planning Claims for additional billing information.
- Family Planning services may be billed with other services on the same claim. When billed on the same claim though, a provider will receive two remits, one for family planning services and one for non-family planning services, as these services are paid out of separate funds.
- Family Planning claims may be submitted electronically.

Providers must submit the following information:
- AHCCCS Provider ID number.
- Family planning service diagnosis (all claims must have).
- Explanation of Benefits from other insurance (including Medicare).
Correctly signed and dated sterilization consent forms.
The 30-day waiting period can be waived for emergent or medically indicated reasons.
Operative reports for surgical procedures.
Use HCPCS “J” codes, and provide the drug administered, NDC code and the dosage for injected substances.
Payment for IUDs requires a copy of the invoice to establish cost to the provider.
Anesthesia claims require an ASA code for surgery with the appropriate time reflected in minutes.
For Family Planning Services Extension Program members, X-ray and lab charges will be paid only if they are related to family planning. There must be a Family Planning Service diagnosis.
A separate claim must be submitted for each date of service.

Members may request services, such as infertility evaluations and abortions, from providers, whether they are registered with AHCCCS, but must sign a release form stating that they understand the service is not covered and that the member is responsible for payment of these services.

If you have authorization or claims questions related to family planning, please call:
Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC
602-798-2745: Phoenix
888-836-8147: Outside Phoenix

17.28 - Complete Obstetrical Care Package
Reimbursement for obstetrical care is dependent upon the provider’s contract with MC. Please refer to your contract for further detail. Providers are expected to bill for obstetrical care according to the terms of their contract and should file claims using a Form 1500 (02/12).

Fee for Service
For additional information regarding fee for service billing, please refer to our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 2 – Professional Claim Types by Specialty, Section 2.5 – Obstetrical Billing. It is important to note that providers must bill all pre-natal and post-partum visits when submitting a finalized claim. This information is required per AHCCCS guidelines to increase the data available for calculating Performance Measures as well as to provide an opportunity to improve care, services and outcomes for members. Most providers are currently contracted on a fee for service basis and are paid in accordance with CPT Guidelines.
**Global Case Rate**

Providers contracted at a global case rate are reimbursed as follows:

**Services Included in the Package**

- Initial and subsequent prenatal visits, including early, periodic, screening, diagnosis and treatment services (EPSDT - see below) for patients less than 21 years of age
- Treatment of pregnancy related conditions, including hypertension and gestational diabetes
- Treatment of urinary tract infections and pelvic infections
- Routine labs and blood draws
- In-hospital management of threatened premature labor
- In-hospital management of hyperemesis gravidarum
- External cephalic version performed in hospital
- Induction of labor by prostaglandins and/or oxytocin and/or combined
- Amnioinfusion
- Trial of vaginal birth after a cesarean (VBAC)
- Delivery by any method, including cesarean section
- Episiotomy and repair, including 4th degree lacerations
- All routine post-partum care, including follow-up visit
- Any management that would ordinarily be considered part of OB care.

Services will not be separately reimbursed if billed separately.

If a provider does not complete all the services in the Global Obstetrical Care Package, this may result in a lesser payment or potential recoupment of payments made.

**Services Not Included in the Package**

- Amniocentesis
- Obstetrical Ultrasonography
- Non-stress and contraction stress tests
- Coloscopy and/or biopsy for accepted indication
- Return to operating or delivery room for postpartum hemorrhage/curettage
- Non-obstetrical related medical care
- Cerclage.

Separate reimbursement will be provided, if medically necessary.
17.29 - Trimester of Entry into Prenatal Care
Claims for obstetrical services are submitted on Form 1500 (02-12). Health providers must bill in accordance with our Claims Processing Manual available on our Claims web page, Chapter 2 – Professional Claim Types by Specialty, Section 2.5 – Obstetrical Billing.

While the goals of early entry into prenatal care and regular care during pregnancy have not changed, HEDIS guidelines will be followed to determine trimester of entry into prenatal care. Entry into prenatal care and the number of prenatal visits is measured and monitored by MCCC and AHCCCS as part of the Quality Management Program.

17.30 - Provider Remittance Advice
MCCC generates checks weekly. Claims processed during a payment cycle will appear on a remittance advice (“remit”) as paid, denied or reversed. Adjustments to incorrectly paid claims may reduce the check amount or cause a check not to be issued. Please review each remit carefully and compare to prior remits to ensure proper tracking and posting of adjustments. We recommend that you keep all remittance advices and use the information to post payments and reversals and make corrections for any claims requiring resubmission. Call your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant if you are interested in receiving electronic remittance advices.

The Provider Remittance Advice (remit) is the notification to the provider of the claims processed during the payment cycle. A separate remit is provided for each line of business in which the provider participates.

Information provided on the remit includes:

- The Summary Box found at the top right of the first page of the remit summarizes the amounts processed for this payment cycle.
- The Remit Date represents the end of the payment cycle.
- The Beginning Balance represents any funds still owed to MCCC for previous overpayments not yet recouped or funds advanced.
- The Processed Amount is the total of the amount processed for each claim represented on the remit.
- The Discount Penalty is the amount deducted from, or added to, the processed amount due to late or early payment depending on the terms of the provider contract.
- The Net Amount is the sum of the Processed Amount and the Discount/Penalty.
- The Refund Amount represents funds that the provider has returned to MCCC due to overpayment. These are listed to identify claims that have been reversed. The reversed amounts are included in the Processed Amount above. Claims that have
refunds applied are noted with a Claim Status of REVERSED in the claim detail header with a non-zero Refund Amount listed.

- The Amount Paid is the total of the Net Amount, plus the Refund Amount, minus the Amount Recouped.
- The Ending Balance represents any funds still owed to MCCC after this payment cycle. This will result in a negative Amount Paid.
- The Check # and Check Amount are listed if there is a check associated with the remit. If payment is made electronically then the EFT Reference # and EFT Amount are listed along with the last four digits of the bank account, the funds were transferred. There are separate checks and remits for each line of business in which the provider participates.
- The Benefit Plan refers to the line of business applicable for this remit. TIN refers to the tax identification number.
- The Claim Header area of the remit lists information pertinent to the entire claim. This includes:
  - Member/Patient Name
  - ID
  - Birth Date
  - Account Number,
  - Authorization ID, if Obtained
  - Provider Name,
  - Claim Status,
  - Claim Number
  - Refund Amount, if Applicable
- The Claim Totals are totals of the amounts listed for each line item of that claim.
- The Code/Description area lists the processing messages for the claim.
- The Remit Totals are the total amounts of all claims processed during this payment cycle.
- The Message at the end of the remit contains claims inquiry and resubmission information as well as grievance rights information.

The following Remittance Advice samples are available under the Forms section on MC’s website:

- Mercy Care Complete Care Remit Format for Check
- Mercy Care Complete Care Remit Format for EFT
- Mercy Care Long Term Care Remit Format for Check
- Mercy Care Long Term Care Remit Format for EFT
- Mercy Care RBHA Remit Format for Check
Mercy Care RBHA Remit Format for EFT
- Aetna FPS Remit Format for Check
- Aetna FPS Remit Format for EFT

More information is available in this Provider Manual under section MC Chapter 4 – Provider Requirements, Section 4.44 – Mercy Care Web Portal regarding Remittance Advice Search.

An electronic version of the Remittance Advice can be attained. To qualify for an Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA), you must currently submit claims through EDI and receive payment for claim by EFT. You must also have the ability to receive ERA through an 835 file. We encourage our providers to take advantage of EDI, EFT, and ERA, as it shortens the turnaround time for you to receive payment and reconcile your outstanding accounts. Please contact your Network Relations Specialist/Consultant to assist you with this process.

17.31 – Program Integrity

Criteria Used in Program Integrity Reviews

The criteria include timeliness, correctness, and omission of encounters, in addition to encountering for services not documented in the medical record, incorrectly documented in the medical record or insufficiently documented in the medical record. These criteria are defined as follows:

- Timeliness - The time elapsed between the date of service and the date that the encounter is received;
- Correctness - A correct encounter contains a complete and accurate description of a covered physical or behavioral health service provided to a member. Correctness errors frequently identified include, but are not limited to, invalid procedure or revenue codes and ICD-10 diagnoses not reported to the correct level of specificity;
- Omission - Provider documentation shows a service was provided, however, an encounter was not submitted;
- Documentation Issues - A description of adequate documentation is referenced in MC Chapter 4 – Provider Requirements, Section 4.17 – Member’s Medical Records.

Mercy Care conducts program integrity audits studies with all contracted providers. The program integrity audits studies help ensure that covered healthcare services are appropriately documented and billed/encountered and that they support the identification of opportunities for improvement in billing practices.

Mercy Care will establish a review schedule with providers and provide advance notice of the program integrity audit. Reviews may be conducted on site or applicable documentation may
be requested for submission to Mercy Care. The purpose of the program integrity audit is to confirm that covered services are encountered correctly and completely and in a timely manner. Providers should take special care to ensure that valid procedure and revenue codes are utilized and that the coding of diagnoses reflects the correct level of specificity.

**Provider Responsibilities**
Providers must deliver covered services in accordance with all AHCCCS and Mercy Care guides/guidelines and policies. Healthcare providers must document adequate information in the clinical record and submit encounters in accordance with MC Chapter 17 - Submitting Claims and Encounters to Mercy Care. Any program integrity findings that indicate suspected fraud and/or program abuse must be reported to the AHCCCS Office of Inspector General as required. A determination of overpayment as the result of a program integrity audit will result in a recovery of the related funds/voiding of related encounters as required.

**Program Integrity Findings**
Mercy Care will report the program integrity findings to the provider, as applicable.

**Prepayment Review Process**
Mercy Care may determine that a prepayment review is necessary based on findings resulting from Program Integrity Reviews, other audit processes or data mining activities. This is not an audit process, but simply a mechanism to ensure clean claiming is occurring.

During the prepayment review process, samples of claims will be selected for review which may or may not require the submission of medical records. Any claims selected for prepayment review will be either temporarily pended for further research or denied with a request for medical records. Once research has been completed, the pended claims will be released either for payment or denial. If records have been received for prepayment review and the claim is found to be sufficiently supported and appropriately billed the denied claim may be adjusted for payment.

- Providers will be given 3 business days to submit any requested medical records for review.
- Claims payments or denials will occur within 7 days of completion of the review.
- Mercy Care will have up to 30 days to complete review of the claims pended for prepayment review.
**Claim Resubmissions and Recoupments**
Any claims/encounters recouped as part of the Program Integrity process or claims/encounters denied as part of the Prepayment Review process (after records are received and reviewed) are not eligible to be resubmitted. New claims may not be submitted to replace these services.

**AHCCCS Encounter Validation**
AHCCCS performs periodic encounter validation studies. All AHCCCS contractors and subcontractors are contractually required to participate in this process. In addition, the encounter validation studies enable AHCCCS to monitor and improve the quality of encounter data.
MC Chapter 18 – Fraud, Waste and Abuse

18.00 - Fraud and Abuse Overview
MC supports efforts to detect, prevent and report fraud and abuse within the Medicaid system. These efforts are consistent with our mission to provide care to the poor and those with special needs while exercising sound fiscal responsibility. Management of limited resources is a key part of this responsibility.

Fraudulent activity hurts everyone. We hope you will join us in our efforts to ensure that tax dollars spent for health care are spent responsibly and used to provide necessary care for as many members as possible.

Examples of actions that are reportable to the state’s investigative agencies include:
- Physical or sexual abuse of members.
- Improper billing and coding of claims.
- Pass through billing.
- Billing for services not rendered.
- Raising fees for Medicaid patients to allowable amounts if these fees are not billed to other patients.
- Unbundling and up coding may be construed as fraud if a pattern is found to exist.

In addition, member fraud is also reportable, and examples include:
- Use of another member’s identification to obtain services.
- Fraudulent application for eligibility.
- Sale of durable medical equipment while on loan to members.
- Prescription fraud.

MC is required to report cases of suspected fraud or abuse to the AHCCCS Office of Inspector General. Other agencies may be involved in cases of criminal activity or abuse. The AHCCCS Office of Inspector General is responsible for determining if suspected fraud or abuse cases warrant referral to the State Attorney General’s office. The AHCCCS Office of Inspector General has the authority to levy civil monetary penalties, issue recoupment letters, and utilize other types of sanctions if fraud, waste or abuse is substantiated.

Anyone who suspects member or provider fraud, or abuse may report it either to the MC hotline number at 800-810-6544 or directly to the State hotline at:
AHCCCS has published to its website an e-learning seminar entitled "Fraud Awareness for Providers" that discusses provider and member fraud. This seminar is available at the following website under the tab marked Fraud Awareness for Providers:

https://www.azahcccs.gov/Fraud/CBT/healthplanproviderfraud/healthplanproviderfraudfs.htm

MC would like to inform you of this valuable seminar’s availability and would like to encourage our providers and their office staff to review/listen to this short seminar for additional information regarding fraud awareness.

Per the AHCCCS website, the chief goal of the AHCCCS Office of Inspector General is to ensure that AHCCCS (Medicaid) funds are used effectively, efficiently, and in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and policies. Every dollar lost to the misuse of AHCCCS benefits is one less dollar available to fund programs which provide essential medical services for Arizona residents. The Office of Inspector General audits and investigates providers and members who are suspected of defrauding the AHCCCS program, recovers overpayments, issues administrative sanctions, and refers cases of suspected fraud for criminal prosecution. You are encouraged to immediately report matters involving fraud, waste and abuse.

18.01 - Deficit Reduction Act and False Claims Act Compliance Requirements
Each Provider Agreement requires all providers to adhere to Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) requirements. The DRA requires that any entity (which receives or makes payments, under a state plan approved under Title XIX or under any waiver of such plan, totaling at least $5 million annually) must establish written policies for its employees, management, contractors and agents regarding the False Claims Act (FCA). The FCA applies to claims presented for payment by federal health care programs. The FCA allows private persons to bring a civil action against those who knowingly submit false claims upon the government.

Activities for which one may be liable under the FCA:
- Knowingly presenting to an officer or employee of the United States government a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval.
- Knowingly making, using, or causing a false record or statement to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the government.
- Conspiring to defraud the government by getting false or fraudulent claims allowed or paid.
- Having possession, custody, or control of property or money used, or to be used by the government and, intending to defraud the government by willfully concealing property, delivering, or causing to be delivered less property than the amount for which the person receives.
- Authorizing to make or deliver a document, certifying receipt of property used by the government and intending to defraud the government and making or delivering a receipt without completely knowing that the information on the receipt is true;
- Knowingly buying, or receiving as a pledge of an obligation or debt, public property from an officer or employee of the government, or a member of the Armed Forces, who lawfully may not sell or pledge the property; or
  - Knowingly making, using or causing to be made or used, a false record or statement to conceal, avoid, or decrease an obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the government.
  - The definition of “knowing” and “knowingly” as it relates to the FCA includes actual knowledge of the information, acting in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information, and/or acting in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information. Proof of specific intent to “defraud” is not required for reporting potential violations of the law.

**18.02 - False Claims Training Requirements**

As required by MC’s contract with AHCCCS Administration, providers must train their staff on the following:
- The administrative remedies for false claims and statements.
- Any state laws relating to civil or criminal penalties for false claims and statements.
- The whistleblower (or relater) protections under such laws.

**18.03 - Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements**

The United States Government (Government) has administrative remedies available to it in cases that have resulted in FCA violations. The administrative remedy for violating the FCA is three times the dollar amount that the government is defrauded and civil penalties of $5,500 to $11,000 for each false claim by the party responsible for the claim. If there is a recovery in the case brought under the FCA, the person suing (relater) may receive a percentage of the recovery against the party that had responsibility for the false claim. For the party that had responsibility for the false claim, the government may seek to exclude it from future participation in federally funded health care programs or impose integrity obligations against it.
18.04 - State Laws Relating to Civil or Criminal Penalties or False Claims and Statements
To prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse, many states have enacted laws like the FCA but with state-specific requirements, including administrative remedies and relater rights. Those laws generally prohibit the same types of false or fraudulent claims for payments for health care related goods or services as are addressed by the federal FCA. For further information on specific state law requirements, contact MC’s Compliance Office.

Additional information on the Deficit Reduction Act and False Claims Act is available on the following websites:

- **Deficit Reduction Act – Public Law 109-171**
- **Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS):**
  - ARS 13-1802: Theft
  - ARS 13-2002: Forgery
  - ARS 13-2310: Fraudulent schemes and artifices
  - ARS 13-2311: Fraudulent schemes and practices; willful concealment
  - ARS 36-2918: Duty to report fraud
  - AAC R9-22-1101, et seq.: Civil Monetary Penalties
MC Chapter 19 – Workforce Development

19.00 – General Information
This chapter applies to AHCCCS Complete Care (ACC), ALTCS/EPD, DES/DDD (DDD), and RBHA contracted providers. The purpose of this chapter is to describe provider requirements, expectations and recommendations in developing the workforce. Initiatives in this chapter align with AHCCCS Workforce Development Policy ACOM 407.

Definitions:

Workforce Development Alliance (WFDA) is organized by the Arizona Association of Health Plans (AzAHP) and includes members from AHCCCS, Arizona Complete Health, AzAHP, Banner University Family Care, Care 1st, Magellan Complete Care, Mercy Care, Relias Learning, Steward Health Choice Arizona and United Healthcare Community Plan.

Workforce Development (WFD) is an approach to improving healthcare outcomes of our members by enhancing the training, skills and competency of our workforce. It is a collaborative effort between all departments to set goals and initiatives to improve the workforce to provide better member services and care.

Competency is defined as a person’s ability or capacity to successfully perform job duties. Competency encompasses more than merely training our workforce and includes specific behavioral indicators that are demonstrated and observed.

19.01 – Contract Requirements
Mercy Care’s Workforce Development (WFD) department implements, monitors, and regulates Provider WFD activities and requirements listed in this chapter. In addition, Mercy Care evaluates the impact of the WFD requirements and activities to support Providers in developing a qualified, knowledgeable and competent workforce.

The Mercy Care Provider Relations Department works in conjunction with WFD to provide initial and ongoing development opportunities for contracted Provider agencies. Please contact their team directly for additional information.

Mercy Care believes that we ensure the provision of high-quality services by fostering collaboration, respect for differences, preferences, language and other cultural needs within the communities we serve. We believe that culturally and linguistically-responsive programs that promote building on people's strengths and values while reducing the effects of traumatic...
and other adverse experiences achieve positive health outcomes and create welcoming environments.

With the above stated, we ensure that all course content is culturally appropriate, has a trauma informed approach and is developed using adult-learning principles and guidelines. Additionally, it is aligned with company guidelines and WFD industry standards, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) core competencies for WFD, federal and state requirements and the requirements of the following agencies, entities and legal agreements:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Culturally and Linguistic Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards
- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)
- Arnold v. ADHS and JK v. Humble settlement agreements
- Maricopa County Superior Court

**ALTCS/EPD**
Mercy Care will promote optional WFD initiatives with ALTCS/EPD Providers that support the growth of business practices, improve member outcomes and increase the competency of the workforce.

**DES (DDD)**
DES (DDD) providers fall under ALTCS/EPD and/or ACC Contracts.

**Physical Health ACC**
Various trainings will be made available through the Mercy Care website to improve member outcomes and improve the competency of the workforce.

**Behavioral Health ACC and RBHA (All Staff)**

**Workforce Development Plan (WFDP)**

Workforce Development Alliance (WFDA) is organized by the Arizona Association of Health Plans (AzAHP) and includes members from AHCCCS, Arizona Complete Health, AzAHP, Banner University Family Care, Care 1st, Magellan Complete Care, Mercy Care, Relias Learning, Steward Health Choice Arizona and United Healthcare Community Plan. Due dates for these plans will be determined by the Workforce Development Alliance and communicated to Providers.

*Exceptions to the above include:* Individual practitioners, hospitals, transportation, housing, and prevention agencies.
Relias Learning
All AHCCCS Complete Care (ACC)/ Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) Behavioral Health (BH) providers must have access to Relias Learning. This is the Learning Management System used by the ACC/RBHA Health Plans and their contracted BH providers through the Arizona Association of Health Plans (AzAHP). Agencies must designate a Relias Administrator to manage and maintain their Relias Learning portal. This includes activating and deactivating users as well as enrollment and disenrollment of courses/events.

All contracted Mercy Care BH Providers must be set up to use Relias Learning to report all training activities for their staff to include but not limited to:
- Attendance, course completion and training content for:
  - Technology based/Online Courses
  - Web Conferences
  - Live Training, Seminars, Conferences and/or Events

Requesting Relias Access for newly contracted Providers:
1. Mercy Care’s Provider Relations Representative makes a request, for Relias access, through the Mercy Care Workforce Development Department (WFD@MercyCareAZ.org). The request should include the following information:
   a. Provider Agency Name
   b. Contract Start Date
   c. Address
   d. CEO and/or Key WFD Contact
      - Name
      - Phone Number
      - Email Address
   e. Contract Type (ACC/RBHA)
   f. Provider Type (GMH/SU, Children’s, SMI, Integrated Health Home, etc.)
   g. Number of Users (# employees at the agency who need Relias access)
   h. List of Health Plans provider is contracted with (if known)
2. The Mercy Care Workforce Development Administrator notifies the AzAHP Administrator that a contracted Provider is requesting a Relias Sub-Portal and provides the information outlined above in items “a-h.”
3. The AzAHP Administrator submits request to Relias Client Success Manager.
4. The Relias Client Success Manager will notify the Relias Account Owner.
5. The Relias Account Owner sets up an account in Salesforce under AzAHP Enterprise and issues a one-time implementation fee agreement of $1,500 directly to the provider*.

*Mercy Care Provider Manual – Chapter 100 – MC - General Terms
Last Updated: June 2019
a. BH provider agencies with 20 or more users will be required to purchase access to Relias Learning for a one-time fee of $1500 for full-site privileges. A full-site is defined as a site in which the agency may have full control of course customizations and competency development.

b. Provider agencies with 19 or fewer users will be added to AzAHP Relias Small Provider Portal at no cost with limited-site privileges. A limited-site is defined as one in which the courses and competencies are set-up according to the standard of the plan with no customization or course development provided.

c. Provider agencies that expand to 20 or more users will be required to purchase full-site privileges to Relias Learning immediately upon expansion.

6. Provider signs agreement and remits payment to Relias when invoiced.

7. Following Relias Legal and Finance Approval - Relias Professional Services sets up a sub-portal in the AzAHP Enterprise and provides administrator training to the appropriate Provider contact.

*Fee is subject to change if a Provider requires additional work beyond a standard sub-portal implementation.

**Required Training**

Mercy Care ACC/RBHA providers must ensure that all staff who work in programs that support, oversee, or are paid by the Health Plan contract have access to Relias and are enrolled in the AzAHP Training Plans listed below. (This includes, but is not limited to, full time/part time, direct care, clinical, administrative and support staff).

**Exceptions:**

- Any staff member(s) hired for temporary services working less than 90 days is required to complete applicable training at the discretion of the provider.
- Any staff member(s) hired as an intern or Independent Contractor (IC) is required to complete applicable training at the discretion of the provider.

**AzAHP Core Training Plan (First 90 Days)**

- Welcome to Relias
- AzAHP – Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- AzAHP – AHCCCS 101
- AzAHP – Quality of Care Concern
- AzAHP – Client Rights, Grievances and Appeals
- AzAHP – Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards
• Corporate Compliance: The Basics
• Cultural Diversity
• Customer Service
• HIPAA Overview
• Integrating Primary Care with Behavioral Health
• Law, Ethics and Standards of Care in Behavioral Health
• Medicare and Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Preventions

**AzAHP – Core Training (Annual)**

- Abuse and Neglect: What to Look for and How to Respond
- AzAHP – Quality of Care Concern
- AzAHP – Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLS) Standards
- Corporate Compliance: The Basics
- Cultural Diversity (course will be rotated annually with alternate)
- HIPAA Overview
- Law, Ethics and Standards of Care in Behavioral Health
- Medicare and Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Prevention

**Required Training: ACC and RBHA (Program Specific)**

Additional course requirements and competencies are listed below as relevant to each staff member’s job duties, scope of work and responsibilities. Providers may decide to assign additional courses or competencies based upon individual needs and initiatives.

**ACT/FACT Teams**

All new team members (inclusive of Psychiatrist and RN’s) receive standardized training in Evidence-Based Practices for 16 hours (at least a 2-day workshop or equivalent within two months of hiring. Existing team members receive annual refresher training of at least 8 hours (1-day workshop or equivalent). Providers will track this metric and must include training on the below topics in the total hour requirement for EBP however, training should not be solely limited to the following topics:

- Assertive Community Treatment
- Family Psychoeducation
- Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment
- Illness Management and Recovery
- Trauma Informed Care
- Permanent Supportive Housing
• Supported Employment
• Motivational Interviewing

*Children’s System of Care*

• Birth to 5
  o Staff members completing Birth to 5 assessments are required to have training in this area prior to using the assessment tool with members. On-going competency assessments are also required to evaluate a staff member’s knowledge and skills.

• Child and Adolescent Service Intensity Instrument (CASII)
  o Staff members completing CASII assessments are required to have training in this prior to using the assessment tool with members. On-going competency assessments are also required to evaluate a staff member’s knowledge and skills.

• Child and Family Team (CFT)
  o Staff members who facilitate Child and Family Team meetings are required to complete this course within 90-days of the staff member’s hire date. Please refer to the [AHCCCS Child and Family Team Practice Tool](#).

• Early Childhood Service Intensity Instrument (ECSII)
  o Staff members completing ECSII who are employed with an agency receiving funding through Targeted Investment are required to complete this course prior to using the assessment tool with members.

• High Needs Case Manager
  o Staff members holding this position within your organization are expected to have training and competency assessments in the following areas: Stakeholders, Advanced CFT and Transition Age Youth.

• Unique Needs of Children Involved with DCS
  o Providers servicing children and families involved with Department of Child Safety (DCS) are required to complete this course within 90-days of the staff member’s hire date.

*Community Service Agencies*
Community Service Agencies (CSAs) must submit documentation as part of the initial and annual CSA application indicating that all direct service staff and volunteers have completed training specific to CSAs prior to providing services to members. For a complete description of all required training specific to CSAs, see the [AMPM Policy 961-C – Community Service Agencies](#).
General Mental Health/Substance Use (GMH/SU)
- American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)
  - Staff members completing assessments of substance use disorders and subsequent levels of care, are required to complete ASAM Criteria training. This course is required prior to a staff member using the assessment tool with members and annually thereafter. The assessment used should be consistent with the most recent edition American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria.
  - Please Note: The initial course must be an ASAM specific class. The annual requirement may be met by completing any approved substance use/abuse course.
- Mercy - Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG) and Governor’s Office Substance Use Disorder Services (GO SUDS)
  - Mercy Care’s expectation is that all contracted general mental health/substance use providers are knowledgeable about the Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG). This includes requiring all employees who are member-facing to take the online RELIAS training (within 90-days of employment and annually thereafter).

Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI): Integrated Health Homes (IHH) and Virtual Health Homes (VHH)
- Mercy - Connecting Minds (Sessions 1-4)
  - All SMI Integrated Health Homes (IHHs) must have (at a minimum) one Master Facilitator in the Connecting Minds training curriculum. All staff (administrative staff, clinical, care managers, allied health, supervisors, etc.) working with an IHH must complete all four modules of the Connecting Minds curriculum within eight (8) months of hire within an IHH. (75% of staff need to be trained in this, per integrated care plan with AHCCCS).
- Mercy - Health Coaching Concepts (Modules 0-8)
  - All SMI Integrated Health Homes (IHHs) must have (at a minimum) one Master Facilitator in the Health Coaching Concepts training curriculum. All staff (administrative staff, clinical, care managers, allied health, supervisors, etc.) working with an IHH must complete all 8 modules of the Health Coaching Concepts curriculum within eight (8) months of hire within an IHH. (75% of staff need to be trained in this, per integrated care plan with AHCCCS).

Please Note: Certified Facilitators for the above courses are required to record completions for their staff using the Mercy Care course modules in Relias.
Residential Care (24hr care facilities)
- Crisis Prevention/de-escalation training is required for all member facing staff prior to serving members and annually thereafter.
- For facilities where restraints are approved, a nationally approved restraint training is required initially and annually for all member facing staff. This curriculum should include non-verbal, verbal and physical de-escalation techniques.

Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) Clinics
- Mercy – Exclusive Prescriber Program
  - Mercy Care’s expectation is that all contracted SMI clinics are knowledgeable about the Mercy Care Exclusive Prescriber Program. This includes requiring all employees who are member-facing (Provider Case Managers and Care Coordinators) to take the online RELIAS training (within 90-days of employment and annually thereafter).
- Individualized Service Planning (ISP)
  - All SMI clinics must have (at a minimum) one Master Facilitator in the Individualized Service Planning training curriculum. This course is required for any staff at the SMI clinics who will be working with members in the development of their ISP and additionally required for the Behavioral Health Professional who will be signing as the licensed staff on the ISP. This includes but is not limited to: Regionals, Clinical Directors, BHTs at the SMI clinics/staff assisting with ISP development, Rehab Specialist, Peer Support, Family Mentor and BHP who signs off on the assessment/ISP). Staff are required to receive an in-person initial training (within 90-days of hire or new position) and in-person annual refresher thereafter on ISP development. Course completions for learners at your agency need to be tracked through Relias, under the designated course name: Mercy - Individualized Service Planning (ISP), Course Code: 782440.
  - We strongly recommend that the staff who clinically oversee the SMI clinics regional/CD are the individuals who are providing this training to employees.
- Special Assistance
  - All SMI clinics must have (at a minimum) one Master Facilitator in the Special Assistance training curriculum. Staff members completing Special Assistance assessments for SMI members are required to complete this course prior to completing an assessment with members and annually thereafter. The initial course must be completed in person using the Mercy Care approved training curriculum. The annual course may be completed using the online Relias version of the course or alternate approved course.
Division of Licensing Services (DLS) Required Training
It is the provider’s responsibility to be aware of all training requirements that must be completed and documented in accordance with all additional licensing or accrediting licensing agencies, i.e., Bureau of Medical Facilities Licensing (BMFL) / Bureau of Residential Facilities Licensing (BRFL), Joint Commission, grant requirements and other entities, as applicable.

Training Expectations for Clinical and Recovery Practice Protocols
Under the direction of the AHCCCS Chief Medical Officer, the Department publishes national practice guidelines and clinical guidance documents to assist Mercy Care Providers. These can be found on the AHCCCS website under the AHCCCS Behavioral Health System Practice Tools web page.

Additional Expectations
Specific situations may necessitate the need for additional trainings. For example, quality improvement initiatives that may require focused training efforts and/or new regulations that impact the public healthcare system (e.g., the Balanced Budget Act (BBA), Medicaid Modernization Act (MMA), the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Deficit Reduction Act (DRA)). Additional trainings may be required, as determined by geographic service area identified needs. The data that can be collected from providers includes, but is not limited to:

- Case file reviews
- Utilization management
- System of care data
- Court system data
- Information needed to serve specific populations

Reporting Requirements
Coming Soon…

MASTER Facilitator
All AHCCCS Complete Care (ACC)/ Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) Behavioral Health (BH) providers, contracted with Mercy Care, who have 50 or more staff members, must have at least 1 individual at their agency complete the Mercy Care - Facilitator Workshop.

- Exemptions may be granted for staff who hold a degree in Education, Instructional Design or Facilitation and/or have taught courses at a collegiate level (years of experience would not be a qualifier). If you believe you/your employee(s) might qualify, please email: WFD@MercyCareAZ.org.
About the Course: The Facilitator Workshop takes place over three (3) consecutive days. Using the ADDIE model for Instructional Design, participants will learn to develop and deliver course content. This course is beneficial for all skill levels as it will teach participants new skills or challenge them to refine skills that they already possess. The objectives for the training are demonstrated through development and delivery of course content in a 10-minute presentation that is implemented 2 times during the workshop.

Objectives:
- Apply adult learning models and theories throughout the design and instruction process
- Perform efficient learning analysis
- Design performance-based learning objectives
- Develop instructional components that enable knowledge transfer
- Implement facilitation strategies to increase participant engagement and manage diverse classroom behaviors
- Demonstrate effective use of assessment and Evaluation techniques to elicit feedback

Benefits to completing this course: Anyone who completes this 3-day workshop will be qualified to complete any/all upcoming MASTER Facilitator courses as a MASTER Facilitator. MASTER Facilitators are certified to conduct Train-the-Trainer courses with employees at their agency in specific course content, provided by Mercy Care.

AHCCCS/Mercy RBHA Ownership of any intellectual property
This serves as disclosure of ownership of any intellectual property created or disclosed during the service contract such as educational materials created for classroom training and/or learning programs.

All material published by MC in any medium is protected by copyright. Participants in Mercy Care’s MASTER Facilitator programs have a license to use the curriculum, including supplemental materials, modifications and derivative works, (the “Licensed Materials”) without limitation, for training to the participant’s internal staff only. The Licensed Materials shall be used in the form provided to participant without alteration, including MC branding and copyrights. The Licensed Material shall be used solely for educational, non-commercial, not-for-profit purposes, and consistent with the purpose of the training.

Exceptions:
- Cases in which the production of such materials is part of sponsored programs;
Cases in which the production of such materials is part of a Mercy Care paid subscription to online learning content;
- Cases in which substantial University resources were used in creating educational materials; and
- Cases which are specifically commissioned by contracted vendors or done as part of an explicitly designated assignment other than normal contactor educational pursuits.

Supplemental Provider Training and Education
Providers have access to technical assistance and additional training to improve skill development as well as continued education opportunities. The provider may select from additional training courses through a variety of ways, including e-learning, webinars, on-line tools and instructor lead training. All courses developed by Mercy Care are delivered using a trauma informed approach in a culturally competent manner.

Workforce Development Consultation
Mercy Care employs WFD Consultants as key personnel and points of contact to implement and oversee compliance and competency initiatives. Each Provider will be assigned their own WFD Consultant. These individuals are available to assist your agency with:
- Technical Assistance
- Course Development
- Competency Consultation
- Collaboration Initiatives

On-Site Training Requests
All requests will be reviewed and responded to within 5-7 business days.
- Submit On-site request to WFD@MercyCareAZ.org.
  - The form is located on the Mercy Care website
- On-site training can only be provided if a minimum of 10 individuals are registered for the training. Requests for less than 10 individuals will not be scheduled.
- The procedure for cancelling an on-site training request hosted by Mercy Care is as follows:
  - A provider must notify Mercy Care WFD (WFD@MercyCareAZ.org) at minimum 48 hours before the scheduled on-site training activity. In the event the Provider has not canceled within this timeframe, the opportunity to gain on-site training in the future could be limited.
For additional WFD requests or general questions please contact Mercy Care’s WFD department by e-mailing WFD@MercyCareAZ.org.

**Complaints**
The Mercy Care WFD team seeks to offer a high level of collaboration and partnership with our provider workforce and learning audience. We strive to provide learning experiences that honor cultural diversity and inclusion and reflect an understanding of trauma-informed care. Should there be a need to file a formal complaint regarding course content, administrative processes or team member behavior or comments, please submit your concerns to the email address noted below and mark the email, Complaint. Upon receipt and review, an initial response will be provided within 48 business hours. Email for all complaints: WFD@MercyCareAZ.org.

**Relias Learning Assistance**
For technical assistance with the functionality of your Relias Learning portal, please contact Relias directly at: 1800-381-2312 or online via Relias Connect.