



## **PROVIDER ALERT**

### **NURSE PRACTITIONERS/NURSE PSYCHOTHERAPISTS IN THE SPECIALTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2017**

This Alert impacts Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP) (Medicaid Provider Type 23) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) (Medicaid Provider Type 24) who deliver mental health services and do not have the necessary certification to do so. CRNP and APRN providers are required to possess a Psychiatric Mental Health certification (PMH) in order to be reimbursed for psychotherapy services. For a list of covered codes, providers should refer to the PBHS reimbursement fee schedule

(<http://maryland.beaconhealthoptions.com/provider/alerts/2016/New-PMHS-Reimbursement-Schedule-EM-Update-10-19-16.pdf> ). COMAR 10.27.07.02 and COMAR 10.27.12.05 outlines the scope of practice for CRNPs and APRNs, respectively.

Although this requirement for the PMH has been in effect since 2006 (see attached) a recent internal audit found that not all providers who delivered services were appropriately credentialed. As a result, DHMH has instructed Beacon to retract all payments made for counseling codes to CRNPs and APRNs who did not possess the PMH certification at the time of delivering services. Beacon is updating provider files to ensure that those without the PMH do not have access to the codes for psychotherapy service. Retractions for inappropriately paid claims from 1/1/2015 forward will be made over the next month. If providers have a concern about the amount of retraction or would like a payment plan they should contact Beacon at: [marylandproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:marylandproviderrelations@beaconhealthoptions.com) .



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Providers are reminded to ensure that they have the appropriate credentials prior to rendering services and to include verification of credentials when registering in Beacon's ProviderConnect system. Additionally, OMHCs and FQHCs need to make sure that any CRNP/APRN working within their practice has the appropriate credentials to perform counseling services.