Medicaid Credentialing/Client Enrollment

Issues

Being Medicaid credentialed is going to be much more important in terms of receiving federal funds regardless of the Texas decision on Medicaid expansion because there is a strong chance that the current block grant programs that providers have been involved in will be shut down and those funds converted over to support the higher Medicaid budget

Must keep in mind that only certain credentialed providers (individual behavioral health professionals) in your facility can be approved to bill for Medicare and Medicaid.

It is very important to join the CAQH (Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare) so make sure you respond to their invitation to join when you receive the email. This will help you become credentialed in commercial insurance plans. Many of them may say that they have enough providers in your geographic region. You need to educate them on your “specialty niche” and think about what you bring to the community that is unique.

You must get qualified for Medicare first and then Medicaid if you are Medicare eligible. Medicaid will reject your application if you go straight to them. You will need to have both Medicare and Medicaid for dual-eligible clients, Medicare is billed first, then they pass the claim onto Medicaid. If you only have Medicaid credentialing, then you cannot bill for dual eligibles.

Providers are not automatically notified when there are rule or form changes so this is something you will need to be responsible for staying on top of.

As soon as you know you are going to hire a provider, start the credentialing process right then because it can take up to 6 months to complete Medicare and then Medicaid you cannot bill Medicaid until that is completed.

There are differences between the Medicaid and Medicare rules. For instance Medicaid will take LPCs and LMFTs but Medicare won’t.

Medicare fraud is taken very seriously. There is a powerpoint training for staff that must be completed once a year.

Questions

Does HCC offer courses to train staff on these issues? We are checking

TRICARE-what does it take to receive TRICARE credentialing? We will do some research.

Will there be coding changes under the new law? Unknown but likely

How do you get an invitation to join CAHQ? Look for links on credentialing approvals (Aetna appears to be the fastest). We believe this is the link for Aetna enrollment of behavioral health providers.  It has 2 CAHQ questions.

<https://www.aetna.com/about-aetna-insurance/contact-us/forms/doctors_hospitals/bh_form.html>