



## Department of Behavioral Health INFORMATION NOTICE 11-04

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**Effective Date** 10/14/2011  
**Revision Date** 01/29/2016

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**To** Department of Behavioral Health Mental Health Contract Agencies and Fee-For-Service providers

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**From** CaSonya Thomas, MPA, CHC, Director

**Subject** Medicare Certification Requirement

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**Introduction** Contract agencies of the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) who render services to dual eligible (Medi-Cal and Medicare) beneficiaries and are eligible for reimbursement under the Medicare program must:

- Apply for Medicare certification and
  - Claim for Medicare reimbursement prior to Medi-Cal reimbursement.
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**Background** In accordance with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Information Notice 11-04, DBH as the Mental Health Plan (MHP) for the County of San Bernardino is currently Medicare certified as well as its eligible treatment providers.

DMH Information Notice 11-04 additionally requires contract agencies of the MHP to apply for Medicare certification, if the contractor serves dual eligible beneficiaries and is eligible for Medicare reimbursement, in order to claim Medi-Cal reimbursement.

Terms of the DBH mental health contract require contract agencies claim for Medicare and other applicable health insurances prior to claiming for Medi-Cal reimbursement.

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**Medicare  
Contacts and  
References**

Although DBH cannot advise providers on Medicare policy or the interpretation of Medicare rules, the Department can direct its contract agencies to general information regarding Medicare:

- Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC):  
<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/>
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS):  
<https://www.cms.gov/home/medicare.asp>
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## Department of Behavioral Health INFORMATION NOTICE 11-04

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### Medicare Certification Application

Prior to individual providers being Medicare certified, the contract agency must apply for Medicare certification. CMS requires California providers and organizations apply for enrollment through its MAC.

In accordance with sequential billing requirements, Medi-Cal is the payer of last resort. Therefore, all Medicare eligible contract agencies and their eligible providers must apply for Medicare certification. If Medicare certification is denied for the agency or a provider, the contractor shall submit the denial notice to the MHP prior to qualifying and submitting the claims for Medi-Cal reimbursement. The denial shall be sent to the attention of following DBH program:

DBH Office of Compliance  
303 E. Vanderbilt Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0026  
Fax (909) 890-0435

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### Provider Eligibility

Individual providers applying for Medicare certification must be associated to the agency where services are rendered. If a provider works for another employer where the provider is already Medicare certified, the Medicare personal identification number (PIN) cannot be shared or duplicated as the Medicare PIN is unique for each Medicare certified agency and site.

The following disciplines are eligible to apply for Medicare certification:

- Licensed Physician/Psychiatrists
- Licensed Psychologists
- Licensed Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Nurse Practitioners
- Licensed Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Licensed Physician Assistants

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### Notification of Medicare PIN

Once DBH contract agencies and employees of the contract agency obtain Medicare certification, notification must be sent to DBH in order for the Medicare Provider Identification Number (PIN) to be entered into the DBH billing system. Notification shall be sent via a Helpdesk ticket (909) 884-4884 with follow-up by fax (909) 890-0481. The notification may also be sent via mail to the following address:

DBH Information Technology  
303 E. Vanderbilt Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0026

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## Department of Behavioral Health INFORMATION NOTICE 11-04

### Medicare Certification Reapplication

In accordance with DMH Information Notice 11-04, DBH contract agencies must reapply for Medicare certification should the agency or provider receive a denial from the MAC. Reapplication shall occur annually thereafter from the initial date of denial. DMH and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) require DBH to only claim expenditures to Medi-Cal if there is a current denial on file for the contractor and/or its employee(s).

Medicare does not currently pay for services rendered by non-Medicare eligible providers such as but not limited to the following disciplines:

### Medicare Certification Reapplication

- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists
- Licensed Registered Nurses
- Unlicensed Interns (also known to DBH as post-degree, pre-licensed clinicians: Waivered Psychologists, Associate Social Workers and Registered Marriage and Family Therapists)
- Unlicensed Trainees (also known to DBH as pre-degree interns)
- Licensed Psychiatric Technicians
- Certified or Registered Alcohol and Other Drug Counselors

The following are services which are not currently Medicare eligible for reimbursement and are permitted to claim directly to Medi-Cal, per DMH:

- Targeted Case Management
- Crisis Intervention
- Psychiatric Health Facility
- Crisis Residential Treatment Services
- Adult Residential Treatment Services
- Crisis Stabilization
- Day Treatment Intensive/Day Rehabilitation
- Therapeutic Behavioral Services
- Administrative Day Services
- Rehabilitation
- Plan Development

**Important Note:** Facilities that are dually licensed as a Psychiatric Health Facility and Acute Psychiatric Hospital, must bill Medicare since inpatient psychiatric hospital services are covered by the Medicare program.

### National Provider Identifier

In order for claims to be correctly processed, the National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the rendering clinic and provider must be accurate. Accuracy of the NPI includes having the correct taxonomy code listed that matches the rendering provider's discipline. Contract agencies and providers may use the following link from the Washington Publishing Company to obtain a current listing of taxonomy codes: <http://www.wpc-edi.com/reference/>.

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## Department of Behavioral Health INFORMATION NOTICE 11-04

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### References

California Department of Health Care Services [Information Notice 09-09](#)  
California Department of Health Care Services [Information Notice 10-11](#)  
California Department of Health Care Services [Information Notice 10-23](#)  
California Department of Health Care Services [Information Notice 11-04](#)  
California Department of Health Care Services [Information Notice 11-06](#)  
California Department of Health Care Services Medi-Cal Claims Customer  
Service Office (MedCCC)  
California Department of Health Care Services [Medi-Medi Billing FAQs](#)  
Department of Behavioral Health Standard Practice Manual, COM0942:  
[Medicare Provider Certification Policy](#)  
Department of Behavioral Health Mental Health Contracts, Accountability:  
Revenue Section

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### Questions

Questions regarding this Information Notice may be directed to the DBH Office of Compliance at (909) 388-0879.

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