

Office of Mental Health  
And Substance Abuse Services  
Bureau of Operations  
And Quality Management

HealthChoices Behavioral Health  
**Southeast, Southwest, Lehigh/Capital**

Questions/Answers

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*Issue Clarification #:* 3-96-268 & 11-97-185  
*Date of Receipt:* September 2001

*Applicability:* Southeast/Southwest, Lehigh/Capital  
*Source Documentation:* RFP, OMAP

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**Question/Issue:**

*Submitted by:* Various Individuals  
*County Authority:* Various Counties  
*Topic Area:* Interpreter Services

1. Can a provider of interpreter services be enrolled in the HealthChoices program?
2. How should interpreter services be billed?

**Background/Context Provided within the Request :**

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**OMHSAS**

**Answer/Response:**

1. Providers of interpreter services may not enroll as HealthChoices Medical Assistance Providers. Interpreter services are not classified as mental health services. It is the responsibility of providers in the network to accommodate the specialized needs of HealthChoices members. It is the responsibility of the BH-MCO to ensure the availability of interpreter services when needed in the provider network. The BH-MCO may obtain interpreter services through specialized providers when needed.

2. Interpreter services are not billed as a separate behavioral health service in the HealthChoices Program. The BH-MCO has the autonomy to negotiate mutually acceptable rates with the provider of behavioral health services which accommodate the specialized needs of its members.

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*Director, Bureau of Operations  
and Quality Management  
Date:*

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