



Magellan Compliance Notebook

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Magellan) strives to be proactive and use education as a preventative tool to help ensure our members receive the highest quality of care through you, the provider. The Compliance Department at Magellan is committed to sending monthly e-mails to targeted providers regarding a Compliance-related subject.

This e-mail communication is specific to your HealthChoices (Pennsylvania Medicaid) Contract with Magellan.

This month's communication serves as our annual announcement regarding provider self-monitoring and subsequent self-reports/ self-disclosures of Fraud, Waste or Abuse (FWA).

Since 2020, Magellan has observed an overall decline in the number of voluntary provider self-reports. Although the landscape of how behavioral health services are rendered has shifted dramatically through the emergence of Telehealth, the importance of self-auditing and monitoring has intensified. Many providers no longer have a direct line of sight to their staff or their medical records. Providers must therefore ensure that auditing and monitoring practices have been updated to align with the new circumstances and evolving regulations.

We recommend that you read through the below reminders thoroughly regarding self-reports of potential FWA to Magellan. Please note that these guidelines are specific to self-reports of FWA only. For billing errors/ mistakes, providers should follow the Claims Resubmission process that is outlined in the Provider Handbook Supplement.

The cornerstone of any strong compliance program is a comprehensive self-monitoring process. Without strong internal auditing, self-reports would not be possible. Self-auditing (in this case, referring to the comparison of claims to documentation in the medical record) can help to identify potential overpayments. However, in the long run it will save agencies from significant recoveries if the issue is not identified until much later either internally or by an oversight agency.

Through Magellan's partnership with The Department of Human Services (DHS) Bureau of Program Integrity (BPI), other PA HealthChoices Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations and our provider network, we encourage the practice of self-reporting FWA with the common goal of protecting the financial integrity of the MA program. Magellan supports the notion that

treatment providers have an ethical and legal duty to promptly return inappropriate payments that they have received from the MA Program.

Magellan supports the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Compliance Program Guidelines which includes a component on provider self-auditing. All providers should develop a Claims Auditing Policy which includes a procedure and mechanism for oversight in this area. Self-auditing is a good tool to measure internal compliance and ensures compliance with MA regulations. A comprehensive Claims Auditing Policy should include (at a minimum): the frequency audits are conducted; the number or percentage of records reviewed; how the sample is selected; whether audits are conducted prospectively (before claims are submitted) or retrospectively (after claims are submitted); the indicators that are measured; and the procedure/workflow regarding action steps to correct internal claims error findings. Magellan reviews Providers' Claims Auditing Policies during routine Compliance Audits and Integrated Audits.

The CMS Comprehensive Program Integrity Review of Pennsylvania in 2014 identified "Expanded Use of Provider Self-Audits" as one of four Effective Practices. There are two types of self-audits:

- **Provider-initiated self-audits**
 - Providers identify potential violations through internal policy-standard monitoring protocols, perform audits of their own records, report their findings, submit corrective action plans, and return any inappropriate payments. "DHS announces, through this protocol, that it will accept reimbursement for inappropriate payments without penalty in the event that such inappropriate payments are disclosed voluntarily and in good faith, and that the acts that led to the inappropriate payments were not the result of fraudulent conduct on the part of the provider, its employees, or agents."
- **Targeted third-party initiated provider self-audits (e.g. Magellan or OMHSAS, BPI on behalf of Magellan)**
 - Through various mechanisms such as data mining or on-site audits, program integrity personnel identify billing patterns appearing to be out of compliance with payment policies. The provider is notified of the issue and the performance of a self-audit is requested.

Due to lack of uniformity of provider audits submitted for purposes of self-disclosure, DHS established a protocol for self-audits in 2001. This protocol is for MA providers that participate in both the fee-for-service and managed care environments. The protocol provides guidance to providers on the preferred methodology to identify and return inappropriate payments. The DHS "Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Provider Self-Audit Protocol" is posted on their website: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/about/Fraud-And-Abuse/Pages/MA-Provider-Self-Audit-Protocol.aspx>

The three types of provider self-audits include:

- **Option 1 - 100 Percent Claim Review**
 - A provider may identify actual inappropriate payments by performing a 100 percent review of claims. This option is recommended in instances where a case-by-case review of claims is administratively feasible and cost-effective.

- **Option 2 - Provider-Developed Audit Work Plan**
 - AUDIT WORK PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO MAGELLAN FOR PRE-APPROVAL PRIOR TO CONDUCTING THE AUDIT
 - When it is not administratively feasible or cost effective for the provider to conduct a 100 percent claim review, a provider may identify and project inappropriate payments pursuant to a detailed work plan submitted to the MCO for approval.
 - The proposed work plan should also include an overview of the issues identified, the proposed time period of the review, including the reason for the time period selected, and the corrective action taken to ensure that the errors do not reoccur in the future.
 - Once the proposed plan has been approved, the audit should be conducted, and inappropriate payment(s) projected. Acceptance of payment by the MA Program does not constitute agreement as to the amount of loss suffered.

- **Option 3- Statistically Valid Random Sample (SVRS)**
 - AUDIT WORK PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO MAGELLAN FOR PRE-APPROVAL PRIOR TO CONDUCTING THE AUDIT
 - Extrapolation allows auditors the ability to statistically infer that overpayment found in a subset of data (a statistically representative random sample) is representative of the overpayment found in the larger population of claims. This method reduces the number of claims required to be reviewed.
 - Extrapolation may only be applied to a SVRS. Magellan uses RAT-STATS, a CMS and HHS-OIG recognized software application, to determine SVRS. This application will be used to evaluate the provider's data when extrapolation is used in a provider self-audit to ensure that the extrapolation is in accordance with DHS requirements.

Whether overpayments are identified via a Magellan initiated self-audit or a provider initiated self-audit, the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Provider Self-Audit Protocol should be utilized.

Following completion of the self-audit in accordance with the DHS MA self-audit protocol (and Magellan pre-approval if indicated), the following information should be submitted:

- **Provider Self-Audit Claims Recovery Template**: all identified claim lines that could not be substantiated and are being reported as potential overpayments.
- Investigative Report (at a minimum, please include the following in your report):
 - Identification of the self-audit mechanism utilized (Option 1, 2 or 3)
 - Description of the adverse finding(s)

- How it was discovered
- Who conducted the audit (internal staff, outside agency, or combination of both)
- Parameters used in determining the audit sample
- Criteria used in establishing those parameters
- Date range of the audit sample
- Services audited (include CPT and modifier codes)
- Scope of the audit (broad audit encompassing an entire program, site, or agency; or employee(s) specific). Include full name(s) and SS# of staff person(s) or contractor(s) under investigation if applicable.
- Verification methods used (member surveys/phone calls; staff interviews etc.). Include the number of members and/or staff contacted or interviewed.
- Corrective action taken by agency to reduce the likelihood of re-occurrence. (e.g. workflows, policies, or process changes).
- Any HR action(s) applied to any employee/contractor as a result of this self-audit. (e.g. termination of employment or contract etc.).

As a reminder, the Provider Self-Audit Claims Recovery Template should only be utilized in those cases of potential Fraud, Waste or Abuse. Billing mistakes or errors should be corrected by following Magellan's Claims Resubmission process whereby a provider can submit a Corrected Claim (see [Magellan's Provider Handbook Supplement](#) for details).

Please submit all PAHC Medicaid self-reports and accompanying documentation to the following address: PAHCselfreport@magellanhealth.com

At Magellan, we will continue to educate our providers with updated MA Bulletins, regulations, and other pertinent information to ensure Compliance. Although providers are ultimately responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable regulations, we proactively engage providers on an ongoing basis to make sure they are aware of compliance related requirements and expectations. Medicaid Program Integrity is truly a collaborative effort between our providers, county customers, Magellan, Bureau of Program Integrity (BPI) and other oversight agencies. The monthly e-mail blast topics are generated from audit results and trends; however, are also sent in response to recent Magellan policy updates; newly released or relevant MA Bulletins and Policy Clarifications; or Regulation changes. The intention is to afford our providers with as many resources as possible to combat FWA and reduce overpayments.

Thank you for your ongoing hard work and dedication to our members!

Magellan of Pennsylvania's Compliance Team

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