# NEW YORK STATE MEDICAID PROGRAM

# MANAGED CARE MANUAL: STOP-LOSS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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# **Section I – Purpose Statement**

The purpose of this document is to assist participating managed care organizations in understanding and complying with the New York State Medicaid (NYS-Medicaid) requirements and expectations for billing.

The guide addresses the following subjects:

Stop-Loss

This document is customized for managed care providers as an instructional as well as a reference tool.

### **Section II – Stop-Loss Policy and Procedure**

### **Background**

Stop-Loss is a type of reinsurance, or risk protection, offered by NYS to Medicaid managed care plans, which is intended to limit the plan's liability for individual enrollees. The state agrees to pay for costs incurred by the plan that exceed a certain threshold amount. Stop-Loss payments are in addition to the monthly capitation payment made by NYS for each enrollee.

Plans providing comprehensive benefits under the state's 1115 waiver to all eligible Medicaid enrollees may elect to purchase reinsurance from NYS to cover the following:

#### **General Inpatient Reinsurance**

• For Mainstream Medicaid managed care plans, hospital inpatient claims with a uniform threshold of \$50,000 per enrollee per calendar year are the liability of the plans. For amounts paid in excess of \$50,000 a plan will receive 80% reimbursement for the remainder of the calendar year up to \$250,000. For amounts in excess of \$250,000, the plan will receive 100% reimbursement.

Reimbursement for hospital inpatient claims is based on the lower of any negotiated rate between the plan and hospital, or the Medicaid calculated rate. Effective 1/1/96, the calculated Medicaid rate is the published alternate Medicaid payment rate that excludes the cost of Graduate Medical Education (GME), as well as the Recruitment and Retention component implemented in 2002. Hospitals bill NYS directly for the GME and Recruitment and Retention components for hospital admissions of Medicaid managed care enrollees.

HIV Special Need Plans (SNPs) may purchase similar reinsurance from NYS. The
reinsurance covers 85% of hospital inpatient expenses exceeding \$100,000 per
enrollee per calendar year, up to \$300,000. Above \$300,000, 100% of expenses are
covered.

Note the Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Managed Care Financing will maintain a list of plans that purchase the above reinsurance from NYS.

#### Mental Health and Alcohol and Substance Abuse Reinsurance

All Mainstream Medicaid and HIV SNP plans are eligible for the following mental health and substance abuse Stop-Loss coverage for enrollees *not* categorized as SSI or SSI related at the time of service, regardless of whether plans purchase general inpatient reinsurance from NYS:

- Medically necessary and clinically appropriate Medicaid reimbursable mental health treatment outpatient visits in excess of twenty (20) visits during any calendar year at rates set forth in contracted fee schedules. Court Ordered Services for mental health treatment outpatient visits specifying the use of Non-Participating Providers will be reimbursed at the Medicaid rate of payment.
- Through March 31, 2002: Medically necessary and clinically appropriate Medicaid reimbursable alcohol and substance abuse treatment outpatient visits in excess of sixty (60) visits during any calendar year at rates set forth in contracted fee schedules. Court Ordered Services for alcohol and substance abuse treatment outpatient visits specifying the use of Non-Participating Providers will be reimbursed at the Medicaid rate of payment. Effective April 1, 2002, alcohol and substance abuse treatment outpatient visits will no longer be a covered benefit under the Medicaid managed care program and Stop-Loss coverage will terminate.
- Medically necessary and clinically appropriate Medicaid reimbursable inpatient mental health services and/or inpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment services in excess of thirty (30) days during a calendar year at the lower of the plan's negotiated inpatient rate or the Medicaid rate of payment. Note inpatient services provided by Article 31 facilities known as Institutions of Mental Disease (IMDs) to enrollees aged 21 through 64 are limited to 30 consecutive days per episode or up to 60 inpatient days per year; Stop-Loss coverage for IMD services began January 1, 2004.

The Stop-Loss insurance does not apply to inpatient detoxification services provided in Article 28 hospitals.

**Note**: Mental health and substance abuse services provided to members who were not classified as SSI or SSI related *at the time of service* are still covered under the Stop-Loss program even if the enrollee is retroactively classified SSI or SSI related and the retroactive period includes dates when such services were provided. However in this instance, plans are required to submit appropriate documentation (for example the enrollee roster showing the Aid Category at the time of service) along with the attestation and other supporting documentation for the Stop-Loss claim.

#### Residential Health Care Facility (Nursing Home) Reinsurance

Effective January 1, 2005 for all Mainstream Medicaid managed care plans and April 1, 2005 for HIV SNPs, reinsurance will pay for medically necessary Residential Health Care Facility (RHCF) stays in excess of 60 days per enrollee per calendar year for enrollees who are not in permanent placement status. As with Mental Health and Alcohol and Substance abuse services, the plan is responsible for paying claims to its providers and may bill NYS for visits in excess of the threshold. Stop-Loss payments will be made at the lesser of the plan's negotiated rate with the RCHF or the Medicaid daily rate.

#### Rate codes to be Used to Submit Stop-Loss Claims

Prior to 2003, plans purchasing general hospital inpatient reinsurance from NYS have used designated rate code 2299 to submit all Stop-Loss claims to the state, including those relating to mental health, alcohol and substance abuse. Effective January 2003, Mainstream Medicaid plans should only use rate code 2299 to submit hospital inpatient claims in excess of \$50,000 per calendar year. For other Stop-Loss claims, plans should use the rate codes listed below as applicable.

#### **Stop-Loss Rate Codes**

Rate Code	Type of Stop-Loss	Applicability By Type of Managed Care Plan
2294	> 20 Outpatient Mental Health Visits	Mainstream Medicaid, HIV SNP
2295	<ul> <li>&gt; 30 Inpatient Mental Health/Alcohol and Substance Abuse Days (see IMD limitation)</li> </ul>	Mainstream Medicaid, HIV SNP
2296	Inpatient Expenditures > \$100,000 Per Enrollee Per Year, 15% Coinsurance For Payments Up To \$300,000	HIV SNP
2297	> 60 RHCF (Nursing Home) Days	Mainstream Medicaid, HIV SNP
2299	Inpatient Expenditures > \$50,000 Per Enrollee Per Year, 20% Coinsurance For Payments Up To \$250,000	Mainstream Medicaid

Important – Effective March 20, 2005, it is no longer acceptable to enter a trailing fifth digit zero after the rate code when submitting a claim.

Also note there is no reinsurance coverage of any type provided by NYS for the Family Health Plus, Child Health Plus and Medicare/Medicaid Advantage Dual Eligible programs, which should be covered by private reinsurance.

#### **Process for Submission of Stop-Loss Claims**

An Expedited Process for submission of Stop-Loss claims has been developed for claims submitted on or after August 1, 1997. Under this process, managed care plans are not required to submit documentation with their requests for Stop-Loss payments from NYS. Instead, plans provide summary information and submit this with an attestation that proper and complete documentation is on file and subject to State audit. Should documentation be found to be incomplete or inaccurate upon audit, plans are subject to recoupment of part or all of the Stop-Loss claims paid. Revised forms to be used to submit Stop-Loss claims are attached to this document.

The following describes the basic steps in submission of Stop-Loss claims, the verification, editing and payment process, and the scope and process for audits of claims.

#### **Submission of Stop-Loss Claims**

- Stop-Loss claims must be submitted to the Fiscal Agent in your normal claim submission mode, either on paper or an approved HIPAA compliant electronic format. Note the following changes effective March 20, 2005:
  - ▶ It is no longer necessary to enter a trailing fifth digit zero after the rate code when submitting a claim;
  - ▶ It is no longer necessary to submit multiple claims for amounts greater than 100,000. Stop-Loss claims of \$100,000 or greater can be submitted on one claim form.

The date of service on the claim form may equal the claim submission date but cannot be later than the last date for which the recipient was covered by the Plan and must not be the first of the month or the claim will be denied. If the last day of the recipient's plan enrollment is over two years from the Stop-Loss submission date, then the original claim and the attachments must be sent to the address noted below. The plan also must submit an explanation of the circumstances causing the delay in billing. Claims of this type should first be sent to the Fiscal Agent. Refer to the Billing Guidelines section of the CSC Medicaid Managed Care Manual for additional information on Stop-Loss billing.

Claims will be held to a two-year limit for proper submission. All claims for payment must be finally submitted to the Fiscal Agent, and be payable, within two years from the close of the benefit year in order to be valid and enforceable against the Department. That is, 2002 payable claims must be finally submitted no later than December 31, 2004 with corresponding cutoff for future years.

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All attestations and supporting documentation should be submitted separately to the following address:

NYS Department of Health
Division of Managed Care & Program Evaluation
Stop-Loss Review Unit
ESP, Corning Tower, Room 2056
Albany, New York 12237
1-800-562-0856

#### **Initial Verification of Stop-Loss Submission**

- A minimum number of basic edits will be performed upon submission of a Stop-Loss claim, prior to payment, such as verification that the identified enrollee was in fact enrolled in the plan during the specific time period indicated by dates of service.
- Prepayment Review will verify that:
  - ► The Stop-Loss threshold is applicable for that plan and time period, based on executed contracts/amendments between the plan and local district, any plan copayments and applicable third party payments have been properly deducted from the amount of the claims, and the calculation of amount owed is mathematically correct based on the information on the claim summary;
  - Only services covered by the applicable Stop-Loss policy (see description of Stop-Loss policy parameters in the Background Section) are included in the claim;
  - All data requested is supplied;
  - ▶ Inpatient claims are reimbursed at the lower of the plan's negotiated hospital rate or the Medicaid calculated rate. Where the calculated Medicaid rate is lower than the amount indicated on the claim submission, the lower amount will be the basis for claim payment.
  - ► The close of the benefit year is not greater than two years from the date submitted; or the provider has clearly demonstrated that the delay was the result of errors by the Department, the local social services districts, or other agents of the Department; or the court has ordered the Department to make payment.

#### **Determination of Threshold**

All claims paid by the plan appropriate for the type of Stop-Loss are to be used when determining whether the threshold has been reached. For newborns, the \$50,000 inpatient threshold (\$100,000 for HIV SNPs) would include the hospital inpatient birth cost if paid by the plan, plus any additional inpatient hospital costs incurred in that calendar year. Note that the plan is responsible for ensuring that it has made every effort to identify and collect any third party payments, PRIOR to submission of a Stop-Loss claim for reimbursement. All Stop-Loss claims must be paid only for expenditures after recovery offsets, as provided for in the attestation statement.

#### **Payment of Claims**

Upon completion of this initial verification review, valid claims will be processed for adjudication by the fiscal agent. Submitted claim amounts may be adjusted to reflect the calculated Medicaid inpatient rate or to delete claim amounts that do not contain all information required on the summary form. Plans will be notified of any changes in the amounts billed on the remittance statement. Detail regarding specific changes will be provided to plans by request at 1-800-562-0856. A plan may submit revised information for an inpatient claim, if it would support a re-determination of the Medicaid calculated hospital payment.

#### **Audit Process**

Audits will focus on the verification of claims submitted through examination of appropriate and complete documentation maintained by the plan. Documentation must be available on-site at a single central location of the plan. An audit team may request that complete documentation be made available to them via mail or for on-site verification within 2 business days of prior written notice.

### **Required Audit Documentation**

Documentation should consist of an itemized claim from a provider that indicates the enrollee name, date of service, patient diagnoses, provider name and identification number, and the dollar amount of the claim. The plan must be able to provide evidence, via canceled check or similar documentation, of amount and date of payment to provider.

Verification of the appropriateness of amounts paid must also be available on-site at the same location. This would include copies of executed provider contracts containing explicit payment terms and schedules where applicable. Hospital documentation would normally consist of a UB-04 or 837 that reflects all information shown on the Stop-Loss claim summary.

For claims paid to non-participating providers or to providers where no contract exists (other than inpatient) the plan must be able to document through actual paid claims that it routinely reimburses such providers on that basis (i.e., Medicare fee schedule, 80% of charges, etc.).

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Any claims paid that appear in excess of amounts routinely paid by the plan for same or similar services will be denied or adjusted downward.

There must also be evidence that any third party coverage was properly identified, that reasonable collection efforts were made prior to submission of the Stop-Loss claim, and that any third party payments received were offset against the amount requested under the Medicaid Stop-Loss program.

To the extent that documentation is lacking for particular dates of service, the amount of Stop-Loss paid relating to these services may be recouped.

#### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Stop-Loss**

Under both the voluntary and mandatory programs, managed care plans must provide all medically necessary mental health and substance abuse services with no limits except for inpatient IMD services explained below. However, plans can receive reimbursement for days and visits incurred for these services in excess of certain threshold amounts per enrollee, per calendar year, as follows:

- For enrollees not categorized as SSI or SSI related at the time of service and with more than 20 mental health treatment outpatient visits during the calendar year, the plan will be compensated for additional visits at amounts set forth in contracted fee schedules.
- For enrollees not categorized as SSI or SSI related at the time of service and with more than 60 alcohol and substance abuse treatment outpatient visits (through March 31, 2002) during the calendar year, the plans will be compensated at the contracted fee schedules for medically necessary and clinically appropriate Medicaid services provided in excess of this amount. Effective April 1, 2002, outpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment services are no longer covered under Medicaid managed care but are available under the Medicaid fee-for-service program.
- For enrollees not categorized as SSI and SSI related at the time of service with more than a total combined of 30 days of inpatient mental health services during the calendar year in a voluntary, municipal, licensed proprietary hospital or State operated facility or inpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment services in a free-standing alcohol residential treatment program or voluntary, municipal, licensed or proprietary hospital during a calendar year, the plan will be compensated for medically necessary and clinically appropriate Medicaid services provided in excess of this amount, on the basis of the lower of the plan's negotiated hospital or Medicaid rate of payment.

#### **IMD Services**

**Note:** Beginning January 1, 2004, the excess 30 day inpatient mental health/alcohol and substance abuse Stop-Loss coverage has been expanded to include inpatient services provided to adult enrollees in freestanding Article 31 facilities known as Institutions for Mental Disease up to the IMD coverage limitations under the Medicaid managed care program. Under the federal special terms and conditions in New York's 1115 waiver, both plan determined and court ordered inpatient stays in IMDs for enrollees aged 21 through 64 are limited to 30 consecutive days per episode or up to 60 inpatient days per year. The IMD inpatient days should be included in the accumulation of mental health, alcohol and substance abuse days under the Stop-Loss program and are reimbursable once the 30 day Stop-Loss threshold is reached only for those days within the above stated benefit limits for IMD services.

Enrollees aged 21 through 64 who require IMD inpatient services of more than 30 consecutive days per episode or 60 inpatient days per year should be disenrolled when these thresholds are reached.

#### Residential Health Care Facility (Nursing Home) Stop-Loss

Medicaid managed care plans are required to provide the full range of NYS Medicaid RHCF benefits to its enrollees. RHCFs are facilities licensed under Article 28 of the NYS Public Health Law and include AIDS nursing facilities. Covered health care services include the following: medical supervision, 24 hour per day nursing care, assistance with the activities of daily living, physical therapy, and speech language pathology services and other services as specified in the NYS Health Code for Residential Health Care Services and AIDS facilities. Plans are responsible for all medically necessary RHCF stays for health plan members who are not in permanent placement status as determined by the Local Department of Special Services (LDSS) - or Human Resources Administration in NYC - and may bill NYS under the Stop-Loss program for all days exceeding 60 per member per calendar year using the procedures described in the beginning of this section.

#### **Permanent Placement Status**

Permanent placement status is determined when the LDSS determines the individual is not expected to return home based on medical evidence affirming the individual's need for permanent placement. The plan should disenroll individuals determined by LDSS to be in permanent placement status; the effective day of disenrollment will be the first day of the month following LDSS classification of the RHCF stay as permanent.

Plans are also responsible for paying for RHCF respite days authorized by the plan and bed reservation days, which are included in the Stop-Loss coverage for total days exceeding 60 per member per calendar year. Respite days are paid at the full Medicaid rate while bed reservation days are paid at a lower, reserved bed rate.

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#### **Respite Days**

Respite days, or scheduled short term nursing care, are days during which an enrollee who is normally cared for in the community resides in an RHCF for purposes of providing respite for an enrollee's caregiver(s), while providing nursing home care for the individual. The plan should only approve Respite days pursuant to a physicians order when the patient needs nursing home level of care. To be reimbursable under the Stop-Loss program, the plan must submit an attestation the patient requires nursing home level of care and the respite is pursuant to a physicians order. Scheduled short term nursing care admissions are generally pre-arranged for 1-30 days per stay and no more than 42 days per year except in extraordinary circumstances.

#### **Bed Reservation Days**

Bed reservation days, or bedhold days, are days during which a bed is held for an enrollee who was admitted to a hospital with the expectation the enrollee would return to the nursing home in fifteen days or less. To be reimbursable for Stop-Loss, the plan must attest the recipient has been a resident of the nursing home for at least 30 days since the date of initial admission (at least one of which was paid by Medicaid or by a Medicaid managed care plan), and the nursing home has a vacancy rate of no more than 5% on the first day the recipient is hospitalized or on leave of absence. If the recipient doesn't return to the nursing home by the 15th day but it is expected that a return within 20 days is possible, the nursing home may request an additional 5 reserved bed days subject to the approval of the MCO. The MCO must submit an attestation the 5 additional days were requested by the nursing home and approved by the MCO.

# Section III - Common Problems in Stop-Loss Billing and **How to Avoid Them**

It is important to note that while New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will make every effort to assist Plans to receive payment for the Stop-Loss claims they submit, some common problems on the part of the managed care Plans or their representatives may delay or even result in denial of payment. These problems are preventable. As mentioned earlier in this Section, all relevant criteria (e.g. thresholds, copayments and other Third Party insurance payments) must be documented.

After all the appropriate fields have been completed on the **Stop-Loss Claim Form UB-0**4 or in the Electronic HIPAA 837I Format, the claims should be submitted to CSC while the supporting documents, including a properly signed, notarized and dated attestation form, should be sent directly to NYSDOH.

The following **Q** and **A** have been put together in order to prevent instances of delay and denial as a result of common mistakes:

#### Questions

# used on the claim for instances

where the recipient has either lost Medicaid eligibility or disenrolled from the Plan?

#### Answers

- ➤ What date of service should be ✓ Verify date(s) of Medicaid eligibility and managed care enrollment.
  - ✓ Then, submit claims using a date of service that is both within the Medicaid eligibility and the Plan enrollment period.
  - ✓ If a recipient is no longer enrolled in the Plan, submit claims using the last date of Plan enrollment as the date of service.
- >What do I do if I incur additional expenses during the year, after a Stop-Loss claim has been paid?
- When submitting adjustments to a prior Stop-Loss claim:
- ✓ Include the claim reference number of the most recent paid claim within the same benefit year on the adjusted claim.
- ✓ The amount of payment being requested must be the total amount due, including the previous payment.
- ✓ Submit the claim to CSC, and send supporting. documents to NYSDOH. (Do not attempt to adjust a claim that has not been paid previously.)
- Can the requested amount on a paper claim form be more than \$100,000?

Yes. Stop-Loss claims greater than \$100,000 can be submitted on one claim form.

Why are claims being rejected for lack of supporting documentation?

- The reports of service and other supporting forms are necessary in order to determine the dollar amount to be paid by NYSDOH.
- Stop-Loss claims submitted without attestation, inpatient stay and itemized service forms will not be approved.
- ✓ In order to avoid this problem, you must submit all the above forms with all claims to NYSDOH.
- How do I avoid 90-day submission denials by Medicaid?
- What common mistakes can I avoid when submitting documentation to NYSDOH?

Use a current date of service except as noted above in Question 1 for eligibility and disenrollment situations.

When submitting attestation, inpatient and itemized service forms, make sure that you denote correctly:

- the name of the eligible recipient
- date of service
- recipient identification number
- date of birth
- male or female
- and other pertinent information.
- ➤ What if I need more information and assistance?

If you need further assistance, please contact:

NYS Department of Health Division of Managed Care & Program Evaluation Stop-Loss Review Unit ESP, Corning Tower, Room 2056 Albany, NY 12237 1-800-562-0856

# **Section IV –Appendix**

#### STOP-LOSS ATTESTATION STATEMENT

STATE OF NEW YORK		
COUN		
I,(Name and Position)	on behalf of	attest
(Name and Position) that documentation and proof of payment to pr provided upon request for purposes of verifyin York State on behalf of the enrollee identified	oviders for all claims for the enrog that appropriate Stop-Loss pays	llee listed below are available and will be
I agree that New York State has the right to red	coup from	any moneys
paid for Stop-Loss claims for which appropriate rendered to the identified enrollee is not availate.	te supporting documentation show	
Documentation must include date(s) of service service, patient diagnoses, service provider nar service provider(s). Such amount(s) should be district and the plan or in the absence of specifican be shown to be the amount customarily pair	me(s) and identification number(s consistent with the terms of the c ic contract term, justifiable based	), proof of amount(s) actually paid to the contract between the local social services
Enrollee Name - Enrollee ID#		<u> </u>
Benefit Year		
Applicable Stop-Loss Threshold		<u> </u>
Total Amount Over Threshold		
Less: Any Applicable Plan Liability and Third-coverage):		(e.g., copayments and other insurance
Net Amount of Stop-Loss Payment Due Plan_		<u> </u>
I attest that all information provided on this sta knowledge and that the Plan identified above is		
Signature		<u> </u>
Print/Type Name		<u> </u>
Name of Plan		
		112
Date	Sworn - Notary P	JDIIC

### **INPATIENT STAY**

Managed Care Plan Nan	ne	Plan Medicaid ID#		
Hospital Name		Hospital ID#		
Patient Name		Patient ID#		
Admit Date		Date of Birth		
Discharge Date		Age Sex		
Disposition (status)		Birthweight		
DIAGNOSIS				
Admit	Principal	Other		
Other	Other			
Procedures (if applicable)				
Principal	Other	Other		
Other	Other			
DRG	_ Amount Paid _			
OR				
Exempt Unit (specify type	e, i.e., Psych, Medical Rehal	b, Substance Abuse)		
Amount Paid	_			

# Residential Health Care Facility (RHCF) Stay

Managed Care Plan Name	Plan Medicaid ID#
RHCF Name	RHCF Medicaid ID#
Patient Name	Recipient ID#
Patient's Placement Status in RHCF (chec	ck one): Permanent Temporary
Admit Date	Discharge Date
Disposition (status)	
Length of Stay (LOS) in RHCF	Total Amount Paid
Per Diem Rate Paid by Plan	
RHCF's Medicaid Per Diem Rate	
Number of Prior Authorized Respite Days (if included requires additional attestation)	
Number of Prior Authorized Bed Reservati (if included requires additional attestation)	ion Days included in LOS above
Complete following if Bed Reservation Day	ys included:
Dates of Bed Reservation Da	ays
RHCF Occupancy Rate on D	Date of First Bed Reservation Day%
Per Diem Rate Paid to RHC	F for Bed Reservation Days

# **STOP-LOSS ITEMIZED BILL**

# HMO Name and Medicaid ID # Recipient Name and ID #

Service <u>Date</u>	<u>Provider Name</u>	MMIS/License #	<u>Diagnosis</u>	<u>Units/Days</u>	Basis for Claim Payment, i.e., Procedure Code or per Contract	Amount <u>Paid</u>
				<u> </u>	·	
					<del></del>	
	- <u></u> -					