

Billing for Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) services PPW provider notification

This is a courtesy notification for Pregnant and Parenting Women (PPW) residential treatment providers. This notification provides Apple Health billing guidance for mental health services provided to children who reside with caregivers at a residential substance use disorder (SUD) treatment facility.

Background

Through surveys and focus groups in 2023 and 2024, PPW residential treatment providers shared that there is a lack of clarity when billing for mental health services for children of caregivers receiving SUD residential treatment services. The Health Care Authority (HCA) reviewed authorizing documents and consulted with subject matter experts to assess the matter.

What are the updates?

Existing Apple Health policy states that medically necessary mental health treatment services for dependent children are **not** considered part of SUD residential treatment per diem rates. Medically necessary mental health services for children should be encountered under the child's ProviderOne client ID and use the appropriate mental health treatment modalities, even when these services are provided at or by PPW residential treatment facilities. In order to provide mental health services for children, providers must determine medical necessity and be appropriately credentialed.

Funding and rate adjustments

These updates do not reflect a new policy or rate change. They provide additional clarity on existing policy, in response to PPW provider's feedback.

Encounter and billing instructions

The update was added to the January 2025 version of Service Encounter Reporting Instructions (SERI), under the following modalities:

- Intensive inpatient residential services (ASAM 3rd edition Level 3.5)
- Long-term care residential services (ASAM 3rd edition Level 3.3)

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria considerations

Apple Health billing guidance currently references ASAM 3rd edition. Updates for ASAM 4th edition are still pending.

Where can I learn more about mental health services for children?

Providing mental health treatment services to young children (birth through age five), also known as infant-early childhood mental health (IECMH) treatment services, can look different than serving older children, youth, and young adults. HCA has specific billing guidance and clinical policies for IECMH treatment services, as well as resource guides and toolkits to support providers in these services.

- [HCA's IECMH webpage](#)
- [HCA's IECMH Toolkit](#)

For questions about the Provider Notification: please contact [Ashley Pina](#)

For IECMH billing questions: please submit your questions to [Apple Health Clinical Policy](#)