

A bulletin from Molina Healthcare • February 9, 2024

CMS Final Rule for CY24 – Appointment Wait Time Standards for Medicare and MMP Effective 1/1/2024

CMS remains committed to emphasizing the critical role that access to behavioral health plays in whole person care. In line with CMS' Behavioral Health Strategy and the Administration's strategy to address the national mental health crisis, CMS is strengthening behavioral health network adequacy in Medicare Advantage by adding clinical psychologists and licensed clinical social workers to the list of evaluated specialties.

CMS codifies appointment wait time standards for primary care and behavioral health services that are the same as those described in MMCM Chapter 4 (i) urgently needed services or emergency - immediately; (ii) services that are not emergency or urgently needed but require medical attention - within 7 business days; and (iii) routine and preventive care-within 30 business days. In addition, CMS is requiring most types of Medicare Advantage plans to include behavioral health services in care coordination programs, ensuring that behavioral health care is a core part of person-centered care planning. Please ensure your offices are notified of the revised appointment standards, these will also be updated and be reflected within Molina Healthcare's Medicare Provider Manuals.

Important Reference Links:

- View fact sheet on Final Rule: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2024-medicare-advantage-and-part-d-final-rule-cms-4201-f>

Thank you for serving Molina members!