



V42. Winter 2024

OPTUMIST



Provider Services Department Message

Greetings and welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of the OPTUMIST Newsletter. In this edition we are highlighting Medicare Billing by LMFTs and LPCCs, Requirements for Beneficiary Materials, CFWB Discharge Summary and Treatment Plan Review Elements and more!

We continue to welcome your questions and feedback on how we can make our Newsletter valuable to you.

Best wishes,

Provider Services Department

Contact Numbers		Newsletter Content
San Diego Access and Crisis Line	1-888-724-7240	 P2: Information and Updates for FFS Medi-Cal Providers
		P6: QI Corner – Beneficiary Materials
Medi-Cal Provider Line	1-800-798-2254	 P7: Information and Updates for FFS Medi-Cal and TERM Providers
TERM Provider Line	1-877-824-8376	 P11: Information and Updates for TERM Providers
		P17: Access and Crisis Line Chat Services
		• P18: TERM and FFS Medi-Cal Provider



optumsandiego.com

Network Recruitment

Optum San Diego Website Registration Reminders

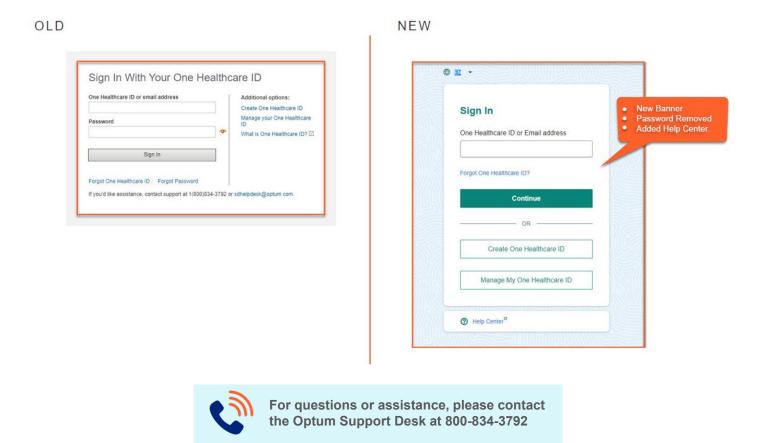


Effective 09/18/2023 Optum implemented the One Healthcare ID login and registration process on the Optum San Diego website.

Website Changes:

- For current users, there is a new look to the login page. Please continue to use your password to log in.
- For new users, there is a new registration page. You may use a security feature via an authenticator app for passwordless login or you may choose to set up a password to log in.

For additional information on the login and registration process, access the tip sheets on the <u>optumsandiego.com</u> website



Utilization Management Department Updates



Updated OAR Forms

The Outpatient Authorization Request (OAR) forms will be updated and available by 2/1/24 in both Word and PDF Form Fill on Fee for Service Providers (optumsandiego.com)

Updates being made to ease administrative burden:

- An asterisk appears next to required items; referencing the Minimum Necessary document will no longer be needed.
- A check box to opt out of receiving verbal notification of authorization determinations on initial requests. Written notification will continue to be sent regarding all OARs received.
- Indicators have been added to specify the maximum number of psychotherapy sessions a provider is able to request.



Authorizations

For each Outpatient Authorization Request (OAR) form Optum receives, written follow up is sent to you as the provider. If you do not receive written follow up within 14 days of submission, please check with Outpatient Administrative Services at 800-798-2254 option 3, then option 4 to ensure the OAR was received.

Authorization should be received prior to submitting claims for services rendered. Submitting claims without an authorization in place will result in a denial for no authorization.

A sample authorization letter is below. Please note what is highlighted to assist with reading the authorization letters you receive.

- Client: The client name will be on the top left.
- Authorization #, Effective, Good Thru: Located in the middle right. This is where the authorization number and the start date of the authorization will be noted. The start date of the authorization may be different than what was requested depending on when the OAR was received. Upon the Good Thru date, a new OAR is needed for continuation of services. Please note that Optum does not authorize retroactive authorizations, except in extraordinary circumstances. Any exception must be requested within 30 days of date of service and retroactive authorizations that are approved will not go more than 30 days back.
- Authorized Services: Where authorized services will be listed along with approved quantity and frequency. If a claim is submitted for a higher quantity or frequency than what is authorized, the claim will be denied for no covering authorization.
- Approval Reason: Indicates that client meets medical necessity.
- Comments: Where Optum may add any additional details that would be helpful to know.

Utilization Management Department Updates - continued

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Medicare Billing by LMFTs and LPCCs

Beginning January 1, 2024, payment for Marriage Family Therapists (MFTs) and Mental Health Counselors (MHCs/LPCCs) under Part B of the Medicare program will begin. Section 4121 of Division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023), establishes a new Medicare benefit category for MFT and MHC services furnished by and directly billed by MFTs and MHCs/LPCCs. Please visit the <u>CMS.gov</u> website for more information.

As indicated in the Fee for Service (FFS) Provider Handbook, providers who are not enrolled Medicare Providers will not be authorized and reimbursed for seeing clients with both Medicare and Medi-Cal coverages.

Providers serving Medi-Medi (Medicare-Medicaid) clients are required to be Medicare providers. Optum Public Sector cannot reimburse providers for serving Medi-Medi clients when the Medicare denial reason is that the provider is not a Medicare participating provider.

Federal Medicaid regulations state that Medi-Cal is the payer of last resort. Providers are required to bill Medicare and all other insurance prior to billing Medi-Cal.

Contact Us

The Provider Line is available for you from 8 am – 5 pm Monday through Friday.



(800) 798-2254

Press 2 for Claims/Billing Questions Press 3, then 3 again for Clinical Questions Press 3, then 4 for Authorization Questions Press 7 for Provider Services



This information is also available to you on our website: optumsandiego.com



QI Corner

Beneficiary Materials

To help ensure your success with following County, State, and Federal guidelines, here are the requirements for beneficiary materials

There must be documentation in the beneficiary medical record that the following materials were provided/offered prior to the onset of treatment:

- Advanced Directive
- Grievance and appeal process brochure and form (must be accessible without beneficiary requesting)
- Notice of Privacy Practices
- Quick Guide to Mental Health
- Physician Notice to Patient (prescribers only)

The following must be posted/available in a general waiting area/office for non-telehealth providers:

- Access and Crisis Line Poster
- Limited English Proficiency Poster
- Grievance and Appeal Poster
- Open Payments Database Notice (prescribers only)



Take Note:

Beneficiary materials are now available in the following languages:

- English
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Farsi/Persian/Dari
- Korean
- Somali
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese

Both electronic and hard copy materials are available.

- To access electronic materials, please click <u>HERE</u>.
- To order hard copy materials, access the order form <u>HERE</u>

Additional Materials:

- <u>MHP Beneficiary Handbook</u>
- Notice of Privacy Practices Acknowledgement

Have Questions? Email us at: SDQI@optum.com

Frequently Requested Supporting Documents for Credentialing & Recredentialing

Signatures on FFS/TERM Applications

• Applications are considered incomplete when missing required signatures and could delay the processing of an application. Note: Signature stamps and electronic signatures are not accepted.

Supporting Documents

 Applications are considered incomplete when missing required supporting documents (i.e., resume, W-9, IRS verification document, current professional liability insurance, pocket license or wall certificate, etc.) and could delay the processing of an application.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and/or Proof of Certifications Required for Specific Specialties

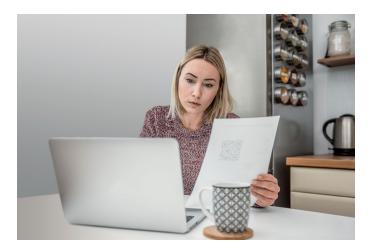
 Applicant must be aware of the Continuing Education and Certification requirements (if applicable) for each of the specialties being requested, and plan accordingly to complete them and maintain the certificates for possible future submittal if required. Missing CEUs and/or certifications could delay the processing of an application.

Cultural Competency Training

Completion of four (4) cultural training hours are required every fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). As a
reminder, recredentialing occurs every 3 years from either your initial credentialing date or 3 years from
your last recredential date. Therefore, a total of twelve (12) cultural hours must be completed each
recredentialing cycle.

Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) Provider Profile

 Joining either the FFS or TERM Provider Networks requires participation with CAQH. There is no cost to you and the information and documentation you provide will be used to facilitate our credentialing and recredentialing processes. Please click <u>here</u> to review the CAQH registration instructions.



False Claims Acts: Training for HHSA Contractors

Optum and the County of San Diego believe FFS/TERM Network Providers are an integral part of ensuring that there are prevention strategies in place to protect clients, providers and stakeholders from fraud, waste and abuse. Through prevention, early detection, investigation and ultimate resolution, we support quality of care and sound clinical practices required by the Federal and State False Claims Act.

As a provider on the FFS/TERM Networks, you have access to Federal and State False Claims Act training and are expected to review it annually. The training can be accessed on the County website by clicking here

This communication serves to remind you of your responsibility to complete the County of San Diego False Claims Acts training for 2024.

Please note that the information and training materials indicate a date of 2020 as the information and materials remains unchanged.



Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) & Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC) Reminders

The County of San Diego is mandated by the State to implement and manage Outcome Tools to measure treatment outcomes. As a reminder, the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) and the Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC - 35) are the outcome tools for the County of San Diego Mental Health Plans for all new youth ages 0 - 21.

San Diego Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths SD CANS – EC (ages 0 - 5) and SD CANS (ages 6 - 21):

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) is a multiple purpose information integration tool that is designed to be the output of an assessment process. The purpose of the San Diego CANS (SD CANS) is to accurately represent the shared vision of the child/youth serving system—children, youth, and families.

The CANS gathers information on the child/youth's needs and strengths. Strengths are the child/youth's assets: areas in life where they are doing well or have an interest or ability. Needs are areas where a child/youth requires help or intervention.

COMPLETED BY:

- Licensed Psychologist
- · Licensed/Registered Social Work or Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed/Registered Professional Clinical Counselor

Note: Physician (MD or DO) medication ONLY cases and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners (PNP) medication ONLY cases are exempt from completing the CANS at this time.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- · Clinical staff administering the CANS must be trained and certified
- Certified clinical staff will complete the appropriate measure (SD CANS-EC or SD CANS) for clients 0-21 years of age receiving therapy services from a mental health provider
- · Completed and submitted to Optum
 - a. With Initial Authorization Requests (or Initial Treatment Plan)
 - b. With Continued Authorization Request (or Treatment Plan Update) or every 6 months (whichever occurs first)
 - c. Upon discharge

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) & Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC) Reminders – *Continued*

Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC & PSC-Y)

COMPLETED BY:

- · Parent/guardian
- Client
- When no parent/guardian is available, staff may be in the role of caregiver and complete measure, notating it was completed by clinician/staff

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Provided to caregivers of children and youth 3-18 years of age (PSC)
- Provided to youth 11-18 years of age (PSC-Y)
 - a. Upon Initial Assessment
 - b. At the time of the Continued Authorization Request (or TPU) or every 6 months (whichever occurs first)
 - c. Upon discharge
- Omit questions 5, 6, 17 & 18 when completing for 3-5 years of age.
 - a. All questions should be completed for ages 6-18 years of age
 - b. Completed and submitted to Optum:
 - With Initial Authorization Requests (or ITP) and CANS/CANS-EC
 - With Continued Authorization Request (or TPU) and CANS/CANS-EC or every 6 months (whichever occurs first)
 - Upon discharge with CANS/CANS-EC

DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS:

- · Completed tools and summary sheets are to be filed in the client chart
- If score is above the clinical cutoff, document in the progress note for the action to address the need
- · Medication ONLY cases are exempt from completing PSC/PSC-Y



If you have any questions, please contact the Provider Services Department at :

sdu_providerserviceshelp@optum.com

Working Together to Better Serve Clients

We recognize that providers encounter many challenges in their TERM practice, and that it is more important than ever that we focus on supporting your important work with CFWB and Juvenile Probation referred clients. We value your voice, and are pleased with recent improvements that have been made in response to your feedback:

- Significant increases were made to the CFWB fee schedule for therapy services in October 2022. Reimbursement of 60-minute therapy sessions (CPT code 90837) was also added to the fee schedule and routinely authorized with all CFWB individual therapy authorizations
- Routine authorization of case management services for CFWB therapy services was implemented in 2021
- A no-show "consideration fee" was implemented for evaluators appointed through TERM process in November 2023
- In 2023 reimbursement of provider testimony was approved through County funds via an invoicing process
- Acceptance of electronic claims was launched in 2022, offering increased speed and accuracy of claims processing
- Telehealth was introduced in response to the pandemic emergency in 2020, and longer-term implementation of telehealth attestation subsequent to the end of the emergency has allowed TERM providers to continue to have the flexibility to utilize this modality for therapy services when clinically indicated
- Expansion of tools and resources available to providers:
 - Telehealth guidelines and resources to support longer term telehealth implementation made available in 2023
 - Treatment plan documentation resources were updated in 2023 to assist with meeting documentation requirements
 - Collaboration with CFWB on updating treatment plan templates and referral forms to more accurately capture salient clinical information
 - New provider orientation introduced in online format in 2023 for improved accessibility and convenience



We appreciate your service on the TERM panel and continued collaboration in providing quality care to clients involved in the Juvenile Court system and continue to look for solutions to better serve you. We encourage you to contact us with any questions or feedback.



A TERM dedicated phone line is available Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm at 1-877-824-8376. The available options for your call include:

Option 1: TERM Clinical Support Staff

Option 2: CFWB Billing and Claims

Option 3: Provider Services

CFWB Discharge Summary and Treatment Plan Review Elements

TERM therapists play a critical role in providing CFWB with timely and individualized information related to a client's progress in treatment. The primary way TERM therapists deliver this information is by way of the submission of quarterly treatment plan reports. As outlined in the TERM Provider Handbook, use and submission of the standardized CFWB treatment plan template aids with streamlining coordination with the Agency, and these are the only written documents required in communicating with CFWB. Given the value, as well as legal and case planning ramifications, documentation of progress and therapist recommendations "can be considered to serve as direct testimony to the Court." An especially important portion of a client's treatment is that of discharge planning.





Discharge Summary

A Discharge Summary is submitted by TERM therapists upon the completion of treatment, regardless of the number of sessions attended. These summaries are required when goals are sufficiently met and is also required when treatment ends prematurely (e.g., CFWB closed the case, client disengaged from services). A Discharge Summary aids in communicating overall progress made toward treatment goals and any salient clinical recommendations for ongoing services and supports. Inclusion of the relevant discharge information supports client care and treatment planning as well as CFWB case plan considerations.

While the Discharge Summary information does not need to be extensive, a few key pieces of information are required as outlined in the Handbook: "Client's progress should be described with specific detail and the reason therapy terminated should be included in the narrative portion of the treatment plan, as well as coordination with the PSW on the client's discharge." As noted in the highlighted sections of the image below, the CFWB treatment plan template includes a 'Discharge Summary' section aimed at facilitating provision of the salient discharge information.

	DISCHARGE	SUMMARY:	
Date of Discharge: Click or tap to enter a date.		Date SW Notified: Click or tap to enter a date.	
Reason for Discharge: Successful completion/met goals* Other (specify):	r attendance	□ CWS Case Closed	

Discharge Summary - continued

Clinical Quality Review of Discharge Summaries

When Discharge Summaries are submitted for clinical quality review, Optum TERM Clinicians review this section of the template to ensure adequate and salient clinical information is documented. A request to update documentation may be considered if any components within this section are left incomplete. As a reminder, when submitting Treatment Plan Updates that are not a Discharge Summary, please document in such a way that clearly denotes that at least one treatment goal is still in progress. When Treatment Plan Updates are submitted and documentation does not clearly identify that at least one goal is actively being worked on, an Optum TERM Clinician will initiate outreach to clarify the information included in the plan.



Treatment Plan Review Elements - Parents

An additional element embedded within the CFWB treatment plan template for parents is the client signature section, as depicted in the image below. This section is important to document the client's involvement in the treatment planning process as well as the consent given by the parent for the elements documented on the plan. At times, a TERM therapist may be unable to include the client's documented signature for a myriad of reasons (e.g., client refusal, services conducted remotely via telehealth, etc.). In these instances, a TERM provider should instead document an explanatory statement to clarify the rationale for the lack of client signature on the plan. As a reminder, if services are being conducted via telehealth, a physical signature is not required. Rather, an explanatory statement clarifying the treatment modality will suffice.

	PARENT SIGNATURE	
I have discussed this	🔲 Initial Treatment Plan 📗 Treatment Plan Update	Discharge Summary with my provider.
Parent Signature:		Date:



Treatment Plan Review Elements – Children and Youth

TERM therapists working with children and youth are not required to obtain a signature from these clients. However, the CFWB treatment plan template does include a prompt to ensure the provider has reviewed the plan with the youth in an age and developmentally appropriate manner. Review of treatment plan goals with children and youth aligns with the TERM mission to provide individualized, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive treatment to each CFWB referred client. As shown in the image below, the highlighted checkbox and text field allow the therapist to capture the pertinent information related to reviewing the plan with the child/youth client. As with adult clients, it is acceptable for TERM therapists to document an explanatory statement for why the plan was not reviewed with the child/youth client (e.g., client refusal, provider will review with client at next session, etc.).

I have reviewed this plan with the youth in an age/developmentally appropriate manner. Date of review:

Clinical Quality Review of Parent Signature / Review with Youth

As part of the clinical quality review process, Optum TERM Clinicians will review the pertinent sections of the plan to confirm client involvement in the treatment planning process. Optum TERM Clinicians will request clarification when treatment plans or discharge summaries do not include the relevant information in these sections (signature of the client on plans for parents or relevant checkbox and text field for youth). As noted above, if the client was not able to physically sign or review the plan, a TERM therapist can add explanatory documentation to clarify the missing treatment plan review elements. When this is the case, the inclusion of the explanatory statement will be deemed sufficient for the purposes of the quality review process.

Your review of the relevant treatment plan elements and inclusion of important clinical documentation is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued involvement and contributions to the TERM panel. You play a fundamental role in carrying forward the TERM mission in providing quality, individualized, and traumainformed behavioral health services to CFWB referred clients. We are thankful for your support of clients, collaboration in the quality review process, and continued service in the provision of essential clinical care within our community.





Based on TERM provider feedback, Optum and Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) have collaborated to create an invoicing process for telephonic and in-person court testimony for CFWB-referred cases. The form will allow you to request payment for court testimony. Note, you will need to ensure that the client is CFWB-referred through TERM process and that CFWB or the client's appointed attorney requests formally for you to provide the court testimony.

Click <u>here</u> to access the Provider Request for Invoice Payment Delegation Form. You can also access the form on the Optum San Diego website at <u>www.optumsandiego.com</u> (BHS Provider Resources \rightarrow TERM Providers \rightarrow CFWB Treatment \rightarrow Invoice Payment Delegation Form)

Optum San Diego
Home BHS Provider Resources $ imes $ Access & Crisis Line Community Resources $ imes $ A
Home > BHS Provider Resources > TERM Providers
TERM Providers Join the Provider Network
TERM is an acronym for Treatment and Evaluation Resources Management, a mental health program developed under t
Supervisors and operated by Optum through a contract with County of San Diego HHSA Behavioral Health Services. The m
effectiveness of mental health services provided to clients served by the Dependency and Delinquency systems. Optum is r
who have competence in evaluating and treating clients referred for child maltreatment or delinquency concerns. Optum also
evaluation reports prepared for these clients.
This page is utilized by providers on the TERM specialty network to obtain documents and related materials needed for their
Clinical Specialty Additions Manuals CFWB Treatment IPV Victim Group Treatment CSA-NOP/NPP Treatment
Newsletters Contact Lists TERM Updates Grievances COVID-19 Provider Services Info Claims

Invoice Payment Delegation Form

🖄 Provider Request for Invoice Payment Delegation Form – Court Testimony (pdf). 📝

TERM Advisory Board Provider Representatives

The TERM Advisory Board meets quarterly to provide professional input regarding the performance of the system and its policies, procedures, and protocols. Representation on the Board includes San Diego County HHSA Behavioral Health Services, Child and Family Well Being, Probation Department, Juvenile Court, Public Defender Juvenile Delinquency Branch, District Attorney, County Counsel, Dependency Legal Services, Children's Legal Services, Optum, TERM Provider Panel, Youth and Parent Partners. TERM providers are currently represented on the Board by:

Michael Anderson, Psy.D.: drmike66666@gmail.com

Denise VonRotz, LMFT: dvonrotz@msn.com

Please feel free to contact your provider representatives for updates from the Advisory Board meetings, process improvement ideas, or to provide professional or client feedback.

Contact

For provider assistance, a TERM dedicated phone line is available Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm at 1-877-824-8376. The available options for your call include:

Option 1: For questions about authorizations or receipt of work products

Option 2: For questions about CFWB billing and claims

Option 3: For questions regarding participation in our network, credentialing, or your provider record



Hover over BHS Provider Resources and select TERM Providers



Access and Crisis Line Chat Services

We are here for you.

Chat with someone who understands.



We can help you when:

- You need to chat with a professional who cares.
- You are struggling to cope.
- You are concerned about someone you know.
- You feel you might be in danger of hurting yourself or others.

San Diego Access and Crisis Line 888-724-7240

7 days a week / 24 hours a day



Our free, confidential Live Chat Services are available Monday - Friday, 4pm - 10pm.

Go to optumsandiego.com or up2sd.org



** These services are funded by the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63). It is one of several Prevention and Early Intervention Initiatives implemented by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CaIMHSA), an organization of county governments working together to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities. CaIMHSA operates services and education programs on a statewide regional and local basis.

We Are Recruiting!

Contracting for <u>Two</u> Networks:

Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medi-Cal Provider Network:

Specialty Mental Health Services:

- Advanced Outpatient Services
- Psychiatric Consultations
- Medication Management
- Psychological Testing

Treatment & Evaluation Resource Management (TERM) Provider Network:

Child and Family Well-Being & Juvenile Probation Systems Services:

- Specialized Therapy
- Forensic Evaluations

Growing our richly diverse provider networks

Seeking:

- Master's Level Clinicians
- Psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Psychiatric Nurses
- Practitioners
- Psychiatric Physicians' Assistants

Gain Supportive Solutions:

As a Contracted Provider, Optum is with you every step of the way.

We are here for you through personalized:

- Collaboration
- Courtesy Reviews
- Referrals
- Claims Processing & Payments
- And more!

What providers are saying:

"Optum was positive and collaborative" "I never have to wait on hold for long periods of time which is appreciated." "Provider Services staff is always friendly, responds quickly and offers help with all situations/questions. Thank you."

Are You Ready to Be Part of the Solution? Learn More Today!





Optum serves as the Administrative Service Organization for the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services.





Alecia Neuben Provider Recruiter (619) 528-4411 <u>alecia.neuben@optum.com</u>

Funding for services is provided by the County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency