

Fee-for-Service Behavioral health program for Apple Health Clients without a managed care plan

Overview

This program was created in response to concerns expressed by the Washington State Tribes and the Urban Indian Health Organizations. Individuals enrolled in Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) who identify as American Indian and/or Alaska Native (AI/AN) and are exempt from the requirement to enroll with a managed care organization (MCO) for physical and behavioral health (substance use disorder and mental health) treatment. The program was expanded to Apple Health clients without a managed care plan in 2021 to include all individuals who are not enrolled in a managed care plan. As of September 2024, the fee for service (FFS) program serves 315,164 individuals.

Background

As of April 1, 2016, all AI/AN Apple Health clients were given the opportunity to seek substance use disorder services through the Fee-for-Service (FFS) program, instead of through the Behavioral Health Organization for their region. On July 1, 2017, mental health services were added to the FFS program.

Eligibility requirements

Effective January 1, 2020, under the FFS program, behavioral health services are not purchased, provided, or authorized by managed care organizations (MCOs). These services provided are based on medical necessity and determined by the provider agency enrolled with the Health Care Authority (HCA) in the FFS program. Some Apple Health Clients clients may also choose to enroll in a MCO at any time, effective the first day of the following month.

Authority

The FFS Program operates under the authority of the Medicaid 1915 (b) Waiver as it exempts the AI/AN population from mandatory enrollment in managed care for behavioral health services.

FY 2024 Total Individuals served*

*Data for FY2024 NOT fully mature at this time.

Mental Health: 1792

Substance Use Disorder: 1726

Rates

Substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health (MH) fee schedules are available online at [FFS Fee-schedules](#)

Key partners

Washington State Tribes, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Oversight

HCA's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) has oversight of providers who have registered through the Provider Entry Portal to provide behavioral health services to AI/AN FFS Apple Health clients without a managed care plan.

For more information

Contact: HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov

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[Visit the fee-for-Service program webpage](#)