From: Omar Malkawi

To: EBSA MHPAEA Request for Comments

Subject: Reimbursement rates and limited group therapy codes

Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 1:26:22 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Labor. Do not click (select) links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Report suspicious emails through the "Report Phishing" button on your email toolbar.

Hello,

As a co-owner of a mental health organization focused on group therapy, we have struggles to make ends meet so far because we are trying to stay within the insurance offerings of our clients. At just over 20 dollars a client, we are not making enough to cover the costs of all our overheads, countless hours spent trying to track claims and building a meaningful curriculum for our clients. We also have limited codes we can bill for so certain preventive skill building group involving families are not even allowed to be billed to insurance. I work a full-time job outside of supporting my wife to run these groups. If it wasn't for her passion to deliver affordable mental healthcare, we would close shop as we are looking at limited income from therapy. Urgent action is needed to improve reimbursement rates and options for billing codes for group therapy. Preventive skill building can save the country much greater than costing it as unsupported individuals can spiral and cost more in emergency and social service costs.

Thank you,

Omar Malkawi (he/him) omar@fannthera.com

