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To: [EBSA MHPAEA Request for Comments](#)
Subject: Group practice owner
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To whom,

IMHO increased reimbursement rates is the number one issue critical for true MH parity.

Low reimbursement rates keep many clinicians out of network with payors.

The administrative burden and the lower fees make it more feasible to just remain out of network to avoid the hassle and often make more money.

We are hard pressed to do this because we care and we understand that this shifts the financial responsibility to the patients who are still paying premiums and in network deductibles for other medical services.

Increased reimbursement rates will attract more clinicians into the field. The nonsense that MH pros are told that they didn't get into this field for the money, is ludicrous. Of course they did or they would just be volunteering their time. This is a job. This is how they pay their bills. This is how they pay off their debt for their minimum of a masters level education.

Finances are the number one reason more than 50% of license eligible clinicians don't even go on to finish their licensure.

Further, MH professionals block out an hour of our time for clients. We start on time and end on time, it's a part of the therapeutic relationship. We simply don't have the luxury of double and triple booking clients for 10-15 minute sessions that we can then make up for later. This isn't how mental health treatment works and it does work! It takes time and we dedicate our time to this work but we NEED to increase our pay to pace with other industries.

Fix the pay and you can fix the provider shortage.

The issues are many and we have done much work to adapt as an industry but as administrative demand goes up so should reimbursement rates. The cost of doing business is on the rise, salaries are on the rise, inflation is on the rise, and profits for insurance companies are also rising but the reimbursement rates for MH pros simply are not. This is obviously an issue.

Please do the right thing and increase the reimbursement rates that insurance companies pay to mental health providers.