

PROVIDER ALERT

State Negative Balances: Clipping to Begin to Clear Balances

February 9, 2023

Target Audience: All Behavioral Health Providers

In January – February 2022, Optum Maryland communicated with providers regarding a process for recouping “negative balances” that had accrued on their State accounts. Providers with a State negative balance had the opportunity to complete a survey to choose a method of repayment. However, a number of providers continue to have an outstanding negative balance amount on their State account, with no claim reductions (clipping) or repayment plan currently active to address this balance.

These balances need to be cleared to allow the normal process of negative balance transfers to occur and eliminate the further accrual of excess amounts/or trailing amounts. Most of the balances in question are de minimis amounts equivalent to the normal flow of claims, and most are equivalent to 2% or less than weekly claims totals.

To address these outstanding negative balances, claim reductions (clipping) at **an amount up to (but not exceeding) 10% of the average weekly payment to providers** will begin on the check-write of February 12, 2022, for State negative balances, in the following situations:

- State negative balances that can be cleared within eight (8) weeks by clipping up to 10% of average weekly payment.
 - Providers who require greater than 10% in weekly claim reductions (clipping) on their State account (136 providers), will receive separate outreach from Optum Maryland.
- State accounts with an outstanding negative balance for which there is no current “clipping” or payment plan in place to address the negative balance.
 - For providers who already have active claim reductions (clipping) or a repayment plan on their State account, there will be no change; the clipping referenced in this alert will not apply.

The current negative balance is printed on the bottom of the State PRA when clipping occurs on the State account. This allows providers to view changes to their State negative balance as clipping occurs.

For an in depth review of your Negative Balance claims, you can refer to the Complete Claims History report which is available to you monthly by request by sending an email to: Maryland.provpymt@optum.com.

If you have questions about the information included in this alert, please contact the Optum Maryland reconciliation team at Maryland.provpymt@optum.com.

Thank you,
Optum Maryland Team