



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
**Hospital Transmittal No. 306**  
**Managed Care Organization Transmittal No. 200**  
**Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization Transmittal No. 23**  
**January 19, 2024**

**TO:** Hospitals  
 Managed Care Organizations  
 Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization

**FROM:** Sandra Kick, Director *Sandra E. Kick*  
 Office of Medical Benefits Management

**RE:** Billing Clarification about Somatic Conditions Related to Carved-Out Behavioral Health Diagnoses

**NOTE:** **Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal**

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The purpose of this transmittal is to provide additional clarification to hospital providers on the appropriate circumstances for billing the Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BHASO) and the HealthChoice Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), following PT 17-24 ([Hospital Transmittal No. 303](#)) issued on August 3, 2023.

Prior to submitting a claim, hospital providers should ensure that the primary discharge diagnosis on the claim relates to the service that was rendered. As communicated previously in PT 17-24, the primary discharge diagnosis determines whether the BHASO or MCO should be billed. If a medical service was rendered, a somatic diagnosis should be entered in the primary diagnosis field on the claim. If a behavioral health service was rendered, a carved-out behavioral health diagnosis outlined in COMAR 10.67.08.02 should be entered in the primary diagnosis field.

The MCO/BHASO Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) has received an increase of cases involving medical treatment of symptoms related to substance use, such as cases involving cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome. The medical care of patients experiencing vomiting (an R11 ICD-10 code entered in the primary diagnosis field) is the responsibility of the MCO, regardless of whether the vomiting is related to the use of cannabinoids. This determination is in keeping with payment responsibility for other somatic conditions caused by substance use, such as alcoholic gastritis and pancreatitis, among similar diagnoses.

Prior to submitting a case to the MCO/BHASO DRC, hospital providers must first appeal the claim's denial with the initial payor. If the MCO was initially billed, hospital providers must submit an appeal to the MCO. If the ASO was initially billed, hospital providers will need to submit an appeal to the ASO. The notice of the appeal result should be included with the request for the MCO/BHASO DRC review.

For questions regarding this transmittal:

- Please contact [mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov) if your question is related to BHASO billing and policy.
- Please contact [mdh.healthchoiceprovider@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.healthchoiceprovider@maryland.gov) if your question is related to HealthChoice billing and policy.