

**DATE:** September 20, 2017  
**To:** Holders of the AHCCCS Contractor Operations Manual and AHCCCS Operational Guidelines  
**FROM:** DHCM Contracts and Policy  
**SUBJECT:** AHCCCS Contractor Operations Manual (ACOM) and AHCCCS Operations Reporting Guidelines

This memo describes revisions and/or additions to the ACOM and AHCCCS operations reporting guidelines including the Claims Dashboard Reporting Guide, Grievance System Reporting Guide, and Provider Affiliation Transmission (PAT) User Manual.

*Please direct questions regarding policy updates to the Contracts and Policy Unit at 602-417-4295 or 602-417-4055 or email at [DHCMContractsandPolicy@azahcccs.gov](mailto:DHCMContractsandPolicy@azahcccs.gov).*

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**UPDATES AND REVISIONS TO THE AHCCCS CONTRACTOR OPERATIONS MANUAL (ACOM)**

*To view the policies and attachments, please access the following link:*

**[AHCCCS CONTRACTOR OPERATIONS MANUAL \(ACOM\)](#)**

**POLICY 315 CYE 16 AND CYE 17, ACUTE PROGRAM VALUE-BASED PURCHASING INITIATIVE**

ACOM Policy 315 CYE 16 AND CYE 17 was revised to include additional information for performance based payments, intended minimum value percentages in future years, usage of the Structured Payment Files and requirement for a VBP Indicator on encounters. *Many of the changes made are retroactive for CYE 16 while others are effective for CYE17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, ACUTE CARE PROGRAM (VBP) STRATEGIES**
- **ATTACHMENT B, ACUTE CARE CONTRACTOR (VBP) QUALITY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE MEASURE STANDARDS**
- **ATTACHMENT C, ACUTE CARE PROGRAM (VBP) QUALITY DISTRIBUTION EXAMPLE**
- **ATTACHMENT D, ACUTE CARE PROGRAM (VBP) RECONCILIATION EXAMPLE**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT E, ACUTE CARE PROGRAM (VBP) STRATEGIES CERTIFICATION**

Instructions in Attachment E clarified.

**POLICY 318 CYE 16 AND CYE 17, ARIZONA LONG TERM CARE SYSTEM/ELDERLY AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY PROGRAM VALUE-BASED PURCHASING INITIATIVE**

ACOM Policy 318 CYE 16 AND CYE 17 was revised to include additional information for performance based payments (including the restriction on including MA-DSNP performance based payments), intended minimum value percentages in future years, the ability to include non-aligned members in the MA-DSNP population for purposes of calculating the minimum value percentage, usage of the Structured Payment Files and requirement for a VBP Indicator on encounters. *Many of the changes made are retroactive for CYE 16 while others are effective for CYE17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, ALTCS EPD PROGRAM (VBP) STRATEGIES**
- **ATTACHMENT B, ALTCS EPD CONTRACTOR (VBP) QUALITY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE MEASURE STANDARDS**
- **ATTACHMENT C, ALTCS EPD PROGRAM (VBP) QUALITY DISTRIBUTION EXAMPLE**
- **ATTACHMENT D, ALTCS EPD PROGRAM (VBP) RECONCILIATION EXAMPLE**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT E, ALTCS EPD PROGRAM (VBP) STRATEGIES CERTIFICATION**

Instructions in Attachment E clarified.

**POLICY 319 CYE 16 AND CYE 17, CHILDREN’S REHABILITATION SERVICES VALUE-BASED PURCHASING INITIATIVE**

ACOM Policy 319 CYE 16 AND CYE 17 was revised to include additional information for performance based payments, intended minimum value percentages in future years, usage of the Structured Payment Files and requirement for a VBP Indicator on encounters. *Many of the changes made are retroactive for CYE 16 while others are effective for CYE17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, CRS (VBP) STRATEGIES**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT B, CRS (VBP) STRATEGIES CERTIFICATION**

Instructions in Attachment B clarified.

**POLICY 322 CYE 16 AND CYE 17, REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY VALUE-BASED PURCHASING INITIATIVE**

ACOM Policy 322 CYE 16 AND CYE 17 was revised to include additional information for performance based payments for CYE17, intended minimum value percentages in future years, usage of the Structured Payment Files and requirement for a VBP Indicator on encounters. *Many of the changes made are retroactive for CYE 16 while others are effective for CYE17.*

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- **ATTACHMENT A, RBHA (VBP) STRATEGIES**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT B, RBHA (VBP) STRATEGIES CERTIFICATION**

Instructions in Attachment B clarified.

**POLICY 432, BENEFIT COORDINATION AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICES**

ACOM Policy 432 was revised to clarify that payment for an emergency department facility claim of an acute care facility including triage and diagnostic tests, when there is no admission to the facility, is the responsibility of the Enrolled Entity regardless of the Principal Diagnosis on the facility claim. Revisions clarified responsibility of the enrolled entity as well as payment responsibilities of each entity. *The effective date for this policy is 09/13/17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, MATRIX OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BY RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

Revisions for Attachment A include specifying payment responsibility for observation claims based on principal diagnosis.

**POLICY 449, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY CUSTODY AND ADOPTED CHILDREN**

ACOM Policy 449 was revised to remove duplicative language related to appointment standards which have been incorporated into ACOM Policy 417, Appointment Availability, Monitoring and Reporting. Additional changes include addition of assessment to the list of behavioral health services the Contractor shall ensure timely provision for. Minor formatting and changes were also completed. *The Effective Date for this policy is 09/13/17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, DCS AND ADOPTED CHILDREN SERVICES REPORTING ACCESS TO SERVICE**

Attachment A was modified to conform to new measurements related to the number of specific occurrences when accessing behavioral health services. Revisions include tracking the number of occurrences for when a Crisis Service Provider is unresponsive within two hours, number of occurrences when behavioral health services were provided by a non-contracted provider for 130% fee schedule, and the number of times single case agreements or newly contracted providers were used to ensure service access in-network instead of out of network at 130% fee schedule.

○ **ATTACHMENT B, DCS AND ADOPTED CHILDREN SERVICES REPORTING CALLS AND RECONCILIATION**

Attachment B was modified to conform to new metrics related to DCS and Adopted Children Services' Reporting Calls and Reconciliation. Post APC Changes include removal of broad reporting categories, replacing with specific call reasons, and adding report month and report year for clarity. Post Tribal Consultation Notification / Public Comment changes further clarified the specifics of each call reason. Furthermore, the language of Quarterly Deliverable has been added to title to indicate frequency of submission and an additional explanation text box provided.

**POLICY 201, MEDICARE COST SHARING FOR MEMBERS COVERED BY MEDICARE AND MEDICAID**

Policy 201 was revised to clarify Contractors may not use coverage code 08 to deny payment for medically necessary services to members who are both Medicare and Medicaid eligible. Further clarification was added to indicate the 08 coverage code is to be used by AHCCCS when resolving coding discrepancies and shall not be used to deny payment of claims. *The Effective Date for this policy is 09/13/17.*

○ **ATTACHMENT A, NOTIFICATION TO WAIVE MEDICARE PART D CO-PAYMENT**

No Changes at this time.

**POLICY 103, FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE**

ACOM Policy 103 was revised to update formatting style and remove outdated hyperlinked references. *The effective date for this policy is 10/01/17.*

○ **ATTACHMENT A, ATTESTATION OF DISCLOSURE OF OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON PERSONS CONVICTED OF A CRIME**

No changes at this time.

○ **ATTACHMENT B, CORPORATE COMPLIANCE WORK PLAN-SAMPLE**

No changes at this time.

**POLICY 104, BUSINESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS AND RECOVERY PLAN**

Policy 104 had a title change to Business Continuity of Operations and Recovery Plan. Additional requirements were added to ensure the restoration of business operations following unexpected events, or the threat of such event, which impact the ability to adequately serve members. Contractors shall also ensure that all staff are trained and familiar with the Plan at least annually, and understand their respective roles. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

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- **ATTACHMENT A, BUSINESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS AND RECOVERY PLAN CHECKLIST**

Attachment A, title has been revised to include Business Continuity of Operations and Recovery Plan Checklist.

**POLICY 203, CLAIMS PROCESSING**

ACOM 203 was revised to ensure that Contractors are not to deny claims for untimely filing providing the claims are submitted within 90 days from the date of a reversed decision to align 42 CFR 438.424(b) and AHCCCS ACUTE Contract YH14-0001. In addition, minor formatting changes were also completed. *This Policy will have an effective date of 10/01/17.*

**POLICY 305, PERFORMANCE BOND AND EQUITY PER MEMBER REQUIREMENTS**

Policy 305 was revised to align the ALTCS/EPD performance bond requirements with other lines of business due to an increase in the Performance Bond amount. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, INSTRUCTIONS FOR WIRE/ACH TRANSFERS OF FUNDS TO AHCCCS VIA ARIZONA STATE TREASURER**

No changes at this time.

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**APPROVED NOT YET EFFECTIVE**

To view the policies and attachments, please access the following link:

**[ACOM APPROVED NOT YET EFFECTIVE](#)**

The following Policies are posted for Contactor reference. However, the below Policies will not be in effect until the date referenced in each Policy. Policies which are newly approved but not yet effective will be added at the beginning of this section.

**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 414, NOTICES OF ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION AND NOTICES OF EXTENSION FOR SERVICE AUTHORIZATION**

As a direct result of the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid regulation 42 CFR 438.10; Policy 414 formally titled Notices of Action and Notices of Extension for Service Authorizations has been changed to Notices of Adverse Benefit Determination and Notices of Extension for Service Authorization (NOA) with the acronym remaining NOA. In addition, timeframes for expedited authorization requests changed from three days to 72 hours. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, NOTICE OF ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION TEMPLATE**

Attachment A formally titled Notice of Action has been changed to Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination Template. Additional language was added as a direct result of 42 CFR 438.406 to provide additional evidence that may be considered or generated by the MCO in connection with the appeal of the adverse benefit determination.

- **ATTACHMENT B, LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM**

The address for Mohave County and Tohono O'Odham Legal Services in Attachment B has been updated.

- **ATTACHMENT C, GUIDE TO LANGUAGE IN NOTICES OF ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATION**

Attachment C formally referred to as Guide to Language in Notices of Action has been changed to Guide to Language in Notices of Adverse Benefit Determination. The limitation of dental services for ALTCS members 21 years of age and older was added in accordance with A.R.S. §36-2939. Podiatry services and custom orthotics for members 21 years of age and older were removed as they are no longer an excluded service provided they are medically necessary.

- **ATTACHMENT D, NOTICE OF EXTENSION TEMPLATE**

Attachment D formally titled Notice of Extension has been changed to Notice of Extension Template. Additional language was added to include decisions cannot exceed 17 days from the date of an expedited request or 28 days from the date of a standard request.

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**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 417, APPOINTMENT AVAILABILITY, MONITORING, AND REPORTING**

Policy 417 was revised to clarify appointment accessibility and availability standards. A definition for Urgent Care Appointment was added and includes: as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires but no less than two business days of the request for a Primary Care Provider and no less than three business days of the request for Specialty Providers and Maternity Care Providers, and for Behavioral Health Providers no later than 24 hours from identification of need. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, APPOINTMENT AVAILABILITY PROVIDER REPORT**

Attachment A was revised to remove Immediate Need from the reporting grid. In addition the language surrounding the requirements was also removed due to that information being found in Policy 417. In addition, the specific reporting requirements surrounding ALTCS/EPD Contractors were incorporated into the CRS and RBHA Contractors.

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**PREVIOUSLY ADDED TO THE APPROVED NOT YET EFFECTIVE LOCATION**

*To view the policies and attachments, please access the following link:*

**[ACOM APPROVED NOT YET EFFECTIVE](#)**

**The following Policies are posted for Contactor reference. However, the below Policies will not be in effect until the date referenced in each Policy. Policies which are newly approved but not yet effective will be added at the beginning of this section.**

**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 401, CHANGE OF CONTRACTOR: ACUTE CARE CONTRACTORS**

ACOM 401, was revised to align 42 CFR 438.424(b) and AHCCCS ACUTE Contract YH14-0001. AHCCCS currently has a 30 day enrollment period for all members. Effective from 10/1/17, members are required to have a 90 day contractor disenrollment without cause period.

- **ATTACHMENT A, AHCCCS ACUTE CARE CHANGE OF CONTRACTOR FORM**

No changes.

**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 405, CULTURAL COMPETENCY, LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN AND FAMILY/PATIENT CENTERED CARE**

Policy 405 had a title change to Cultural Competency, Language Access Plan and Family/Patient Centered Care. Requirements addressing policies and procedures, staff training, assessments, transcription, and oral assistance services have been revised to comply with 42 CFR 438.206. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

○ **ATTACHMENT A, CULTURAL COMPETENCY PLAN ASSESSMENT, LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN, AND FAMILY-PATIENT CENTERED CARE REPORTING CHECKLIST**

The title for Attachment A has changed to Cultural Competency Plan Assessment, Language Access Plan, and Family-Patient Centered Care Reporting Checklist. As well, requirements addressing a description requirement have been added to address how culturally competent items are being provided. In addition, new requirements aligning with Policy requirements have been added to the checklist to ensure conformity with Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and 42 CFR 438.10. *The Effective Date for this Attachment will be 10/01/17.*

**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 413, GAP IN CRITICAL SERVICES**

Policy 413 was revised to align with changes resulting from the ALTCS/EPD Request for Proposal. The definition of Direct Care Worker and Service Plan has been included and clarifying language has been added regarding information that should be included in policies and procedures surrounding identifying, correcting, and tracking gaps critical services. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

○ **ATTACHMENT A, GAP IN CRITICAL SERVICE LOG AND AUTHORIZED CRITICAL HOURS LOG FORM INSTRUCTIONS**

Changes made to section 2, to conform to changes and examples 3 & 4 were changed to 2 & 3. *The Effective Date for this Attachment will be 10/01/17.*

○ **ATTACHMENT A, 1 AND 2, GAP IN CRITICAL SERVICE LOG AND AUTHORIZED CRITICAL HOURS LOG FORM**

No changes at this time. *The Effective Date for this Attachment will be 10/01/17.*

○ **ATTACHMENT B, TELEPHONE SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE**

No changes at this time. *The Effective Date for this Attachment will be 10/01/17.*

**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 415, PROVIDER NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN; PERIODIC NETWORK REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Updated Policy 415 for format changes. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

○ **ATTACHMENT A, NETWORK ATTESTATION STATEMENT**

No changes at this time.

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- **ATTACHMENT B, NETWORK DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN CHECKLIST**

Revised checklist to include additional requirements of Contractors.

- **ATTACHMENT C, ALTCS/EPD CONTRACTOR SUPPLEMENT**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT D, PROVIDER TERMINATION DUE TO RATES**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT E, PROVIDERS THAT DIMINISHED THEIR SCOPE OF SERVICE AND/OR CLOSED THEIR PANEL DUE TO RATES**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT F, AGENCY WITH ROSTER CHOICE**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT GA, DDD THERAPEUTIC SERVICES NETWORK GAP REPORTING ROSTER**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT GB, HCBS NETWORK GAP REPORTING ROSTER**

No changes at this time.

- **ATTACHMENT H, E/PD AND DDD CUSTOMIZED WHEELCHAIR, CUSTOMIZED HOSPITAL BED AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICE TIMELINESS REPORT**

Revised to include DDD.

#### **CHAPTER 400, POLICY 416, PROVIDER NETWORK INFORMATION**

Policy 416 was updated to address the ALTCS/EPD RFP requirements and align with ACOM Policy 415. Post APC changes include clarifying language and referencing AMPM Policy 960, provision, duty to report. Other APC changes include revising language to match ACOM 415, Checklist B, specifying physical and cognitive disabilities and adding contractors who provide BH services. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

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**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 425, SOCIAL NETWORKING**

ACOM Policy 425 was revised to require all plans to participate in Social Networking activities and have a designated Social Networking Administrator.

- **ATTACHMENT A, SOCIAL NETWORKING ATTESTATION**

No changes.

**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 436, NETWORK STANDARDS**

Policy 436 was revised to remove the references to Geographical Service Areas (GSA) due to AHCCCS no longer assigning network standards by GSA but rather by county. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

- **ATTACHMENT A, MINIMUM NETWORK REQUIREMENTS VERIFICATION TEMPLATE**

No changes at this time.

**CHAPTER 400, POLICY 440, MANAGED CARE EXPIRATION OR TERMINATION OF CONTRACT**

Policy 440 was revised to align with the new Managed Care Regulations found in 42 CFR 438.104. *The Effective Date for this Policy will be 10/01/17.*

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**UPDATES AND REVISIONS TO THE  
AHCCCS OPERATIONAL REPORTING GUIDELINES**

*INCLUDING: CLAIMS DASHBOARD REPORTING GUIDE, GRIEVANCE SYSTEM REPORTING GUIDE,  
PROVIDER AFFILIATION TRANSMISSION (PAT) USER MANUAL*

*To view the current Reporting Guides, please access the following link:*

[\*\*AHCCCS OPERATIONS REPORTING GUIDELINES\*\*](#)

**CLAIMS DASHBOARD REPORTING GUIDE**

No revisions at this time.

**GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL SYSTEM REPORTING GUIDE**

No revisions at this time.

**PROVIDER AFFILIATION TRANSMISSION (PAT) USER MANUAL**

No revisions at this time.