

REMINDER: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST AND MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

7/8/2024

The CY 2024 Physical Fee Schedule (PFS) final rule issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recognizes the following two new provider types effective January 1, 2024:

1. Marriage and family therapist (MFT)
2. Mental health counselor (MHC)

Marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors (including eligible addiction, alcohol, or drug counselors who meet qualification requirements for mental health counselors) are now able to enroll as a Medicare provider and bill for dates of service on or after January 1, 2024.

To become a Medicare provider, you will need to complete the enrollment application using either of the following:

- The electronic-based Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System (PECOS)
- The paper CMS-855I application

Contact your Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor if you need help with the enrollment process.

As a reminder an Explanation of Payment (EOP) from Medicare with claim submission is now required. If Medicare denies enrollment as a Medicare provider, FAX the Mental Health Professional Applicant Assurance Statement - Medicare Enrollment Denial (DHS-3864) (PDF) to South Country at 1-888-633-4056.

Providers may choose to opt-out of Medicare (not enroll as a Medicare provider). However, South Country will not pay for services covered by, but not billed to, Medicare because the provider has chosen not to enroll in Medicare.

Please notify the South Country Credentialing department at credentialing@mnscha.org with your Medicare enrollment status at your earliest convenience.

For additional assistance or guidance on the information above, please see the resource below.

South Country Provider Contact Center

1-888-633-4055

Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Provider Contact Center staff are available as your first point of contact to assist with the following.

Member benefit coverage

Authorization verification

Website questions

Claims billing and processing guidelines

Provider web portal issues

Claim rejection guidance

General information



Remittance adjustment code details and payment information

South Country wants to ensure providers are reimbursed for services provided to our members and following all billing guidelines. Our staff are committed to support and guide you in understanding all South Country processes and procedures. In addition, callers that utilize our Provider Contact Center are provided a reference number that identifies your call in our system. Please keep the reference number in your records to refer to if you have any additional questions or need to check the status of an open issue. The reference number will help the representative locate your issue quickly.