

Associated Billing Center's  
**Newsletter**

Exclusively Serving Mental Health Providers

-Volume 53  
-March, 2021

**Reminder: Our New Mailing Address: Associated Billing Center, LLC-241 Forsgate Drive, Ste. 116, Jamesburg, NJ 08831**

**A Message From Mona**



Library of Congress

March is Women's History Month. We celebrate the month to remind ourselves of the accomplishments of women throughout the years to our culture and society. From science to politics, it is a chance to reflect on the vital role of women in American history.

I am the extremely proud mother of two vibrant, caring and wonderful daughters. I was speaking with one of our providers recently and the subject of gratitude came up. My daughters-Reyna & Jami- have provided me with an abundance of joy in my life. I am thankful and blessed to have these two *women* as daughters.

There are a couple of other women I need to mention. Our team members at **Associated Billing Center, LLC.** - Barbara, Jennifer, Lucia, Donna & Sydney are remarkable women in their own right raising families while working diligently with our providers to maintain our terrific reputation in the marketplace. I am indebted to each and everyone of them.

Question: Has the advent of Telehealth affected your practice financially in a positive, neutral or negative way? We will print anonymous responses in an upcoming edition of our Newsletter.

**STAY SAFE. STAY HEALTHY.**



Best Regards,  
Mona

**Education Box-You Need to Know**



**Keeping You Informed**

Cost share is no longer being waived for many insurances. Please begin collecting copays, coinsurances and deductibles where applicable.

**Aetna/Medicare**

If your patient has an Aetna Medicare Advantage plan, some patients will be issued new 12-digit ID cards. Please obtain new ID information from any patient receiving those new cards.

**Additional Reminders**

When submitting day sheets, please specify whether the therapy session was in office or virtual.

Mental Health providers are reminded that once the Public Health Emergency ends, Medicare will no longer reimburse providers for furnishing services via audio-only devices. After the end of the PHE, only devices that have both audio and video transmission capabilities will be eligible for reimbursement under Telehealth.

When checking mental health benefits, we ask specific questions related to cost sharing and Telehealth coverage.

**Network Status**

When a patient comes to your office and claims that you are an in-network provider with their plan, it is sound practice to ensure that the mental health coverage in their policy is not carved out to another managed care plan. **Associated Billing Center's Benefit Information Profile Page** furnishes each provider with their network status for each patient.

## Telehealth Potpourri



>Let's Clear This UP-During the COVID-19 public health emergency, any health care provider who is eligible to bill Medicare can bill for telehealth services regardless of where the patient or provider is located.

>More than 80 percent of behavioral health providers began using Telehealth for the first time during the Covid-19 pandemic with the vast majority reporting that they plan on continuing to use the methodology with some patients post the pandemic.

>Virtual sessions result in higher rates of appointments kept due to the elimination of some access barriers. Examples include child care and transportation. A number of mental health practices have reported increased revenue. Providers who added additional time and flexibility to their schedules benefit the most financially from virtual technology.

>In a recent Qualifacts/National Council for Behavioral Health survey, two-thirds of respondents believe that post the pandemic they could be providing up to 40% of patient therapy through virtual technology. Of course, government regulation in the future will be an important determining factor here, as well as provider and patient preferences. We will report in an upcoming Newsletter on our providers' response to this query.

Tell a colleague about our **Associated Billing Center, LLC** Newsletter. They can obtain a complimentary subscription on our website: [mentalhealthbillers.com](http://mentalhealthbillers.com)

## Laugh a Little or Maybe A Lot: It's Good Therapy



>**A therapist is at a party talking with a small group of people when a man comes up behind him and taps him on the shoulder. The therapist turns around and the man hauls off and decks him. The therapist gets up and declares: "That's his problem."**

Source: [free-funny-jokes.com](http://free-funny-jokes.com)

### The Wisdom of Youth

>**Never give up because life gets harder as you get older. After preschool the road of life keeps getting bumpier and bumpier and bumpier. Angela, age 11**

>**Never blow in a cat's ear because if you do, usually after three or four times, they will bite your lips! And they don't let go for at least a minute. Lisa, age 9**

>**Don't think life is easy because when you get older it is hard work. I used to think life was easy, now I have to do the dishes every other day. Nick, age 9**

>**Take risks. I mean, if you like this person and you don't know if they like you, ask them out and see what happens. I liked this girl and I asked her out. She said no and she hates me now but I took that risk. Bruce, age 13**

>**Someday we may discover how to make magnets that can point in any direction. Anonymous**

Source: [bouldertherapist.com](http://bouldertherapist.com)

>**The therapist was having a problem collecting a co-pay. A multiple personality kept telling someone else to write the check. Source: Gary R'nel**

## APA Statement on Covid -19 Vaccine Distribution

As the COVID-19 vaccine is being administered across the country, the American Psychiatric Association is calling on state public health authorities to include people with serious mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorders (SUD) to the equivalent of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Phase 1-C of their prioritization schedules.

### Out of Network Providers/Fees

Some patients have out of network benefits. When a patient calls your office to check if you are in network with their carrier and you do not participate, remember to tell them to check their out of network benefits. You do not want to lose a potential client because the patient was not aware of this benefit. We can balance bill the patient to receive compensation equal to your established fee.

## Stories You Simply Need to Know About



“I’ve Given it a lot of Thought”

✓ The primate in the above photo researched his options, weighed the pros and cons, and came to the conclusion that he would get the Covid-19 vaccine to protect himself and his family. Several orangutans at the San Diego Zoo are receiving an experimental Covid-19 vaccine developed especially for animals. The vaccine was developed by the pharmaceutical company Zoetis and is also administered in two doses. In January, eight gorillas at the zoo became the first great apes in the world to test positive for coronavirus.



✓ Thousands of people are posting their Covid-19 vaccine ID card on social media for all to see. This is not a good idea according to security experts and the FBI. These cards can contain your name, date of birth, patient number, insurance information, and the location where you received your vaccine. Vaccine cards could also allow a hacker to conduct a phishing scheme to steal data and passwords.



✓ Say it isn't so. For the first time in the company's 90 year history, Reese's is offering a peanut butter cup made entirely of peanut butter without the chocolate covering-The Reese's Ultimate Peanut Butter Lovers Cup. Reese's brand manager, Margo McIlvaine, says that, "While launching a Reese's cup with absolutely no chocolate might come as a shock, we're giving the truest peanut butter fans something to go wild about." Under the category of TMI-versions of the Peanut Butter Lovers Cup came out in 2019 and 2020, but those still contained some chocolate.

✓ Rare Mental Disorders: Stendhal Syndrome-patients experience physical and emotional anxiety as well as panic attacks when exposed to art. Apotemnophilia-is characterized by the overwhelming desire to amputate healthy parts of the body. Alien Hand Syndrome-is characterized by the belief that one's hand does not belong to oneself, but has a life of its own.

Source: Gary R'nel

## Refer us to a colleague. We appreciate it!

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## THIS JUST IN-ADDENDUM TO THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

### CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS)

#### Temporary Claims Hold Pending Congressional Action to Extend 2% Sequester Reduction Suspension

In anticipation of possible Congressional action to extend the 2% sequester reduction suspension, we instructed the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to hold all claims with dates of service on or after April 1, 2021, for a short period without affecting providers' cash flow. This will minimize the volume of claims the MACs must reprocess if Congress extends the suspension; the MACs will automatically reprocess any claims paid with the reduction applied if necessary.

Source: CMS