

BRIEF

Bi-monthly newsletter to keep you connected

Upcoming Webinar on BH Wellness Exam / Change Healthcare Cyberattack



Webinar: The New Behavioral Health Wellness Exam

The Massachusetts Medical Society extends an open invitation to a live webinar it is hosting on Tuesday, March 5, from 6 to 7 p.m. with the Massachusetts

Chapters of the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Practice, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society. The webinar will prepare participants to administer the new Massachusetts Mental Health Wellness Examination. The implementation of the Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health Act requires insurers to cover an "annual mental health wellness exam" to improve patient access to mental and behavioral healthcare. The exam may be performed by a primary care provider or a licensed behavioral health clinician. Effective April 1, 2024, providers will be reimbursed using an identified procedure code, diagnosis code, and modifier, in compliance with the **Division of Insurance Bulletin 2024-02**.

This webinar will include an overview of the mental health wellness examination, how it was developed, roles of the healthcare professional and insurers, and the role and anticipated benefit for patients. Participants will hear about component parts of the exam, screening tools, efficient practice management strategies during and after integrating the exam, and how to navigate the eligibility, billing, and reimbursement for the exam. A Q & A session will follow. Presenters include:

- Moderator: Barbara Spivak, M.D., president, Massachusetts Medical Society
- Kevin Beagan, deputy commissioner, Massachusetts Division of Insurance
- Sarah Gordon Chiaramida, senior vice president and general counsel, Massachusetts Association of Health Plans
- Gregory Harris, M.D., senior medical director for mental health, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
- Hugh Taylor, M.D., president-elect, Massachusetts Medical Society

[Register here.](#)

Healthcare Technology News

Change Healthcare, one of the largest health care

technology companies in the United States, has reported that the company experienced a cyberattack on Monday, February 21 that has disrupted systems and services.



According to statements on Change Healthcare's [website](#), "Change Healthcare is experiencing a cyber security issue, and our experts are working to address the matter. Once we became aware of the outside threat, and in the interest of protecting our partners and patients, we took immediate action to disconnect Change Healthcare's systems to prevent further impact. This action was taken so our customers and partners do not need to. We have a high-level of confidence that Optum, UnitedHealthcare and UnitedHealth Group systems have not been affected by this issue."

Industry organizations, including the American Hospital Association, have issued [advisories](#) recommending that medical practices and health care organizations experiencing disruptions or at risk of exposure should monitor communications and disconnect impacted systems until a resolution of the threat has been independently verified. These advisories also recommend practices and organizations prepare for extended downtime of affected systems, including revenue cycle management services, clinical authorizations, and other technology platforms and to consult with their own organizations' cybersecurity professionals to ensure the protection of their systems and data. Updates on the situation may be found on the Optum (merged with Change Healthcare in 2022) [website](#).

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at PLLCAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu or leave me a message at (617) 632-9728 and I will get back to you.



Deb Schoenthaler, Executive Director



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