



February

ThinkHealth News 2023

Software Thinking and Standing with You



Customers Hot Topic

Medicare Reimbursement Now Law

For over a decade, the American Counseling Association and its partner organizations have advocated for the successful passage of the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (S. 828/H.R. 432). Although this bill has previously passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, it has never passed both at the same time. Today we can say that this monumental legislation has passed in both chambers and is on its way to President Biden to be signed into law.

The Mental Health Access Improvement Act will close the gap in federal law that prevents licensed professional counselors from being recognized as Medicare providers. The legislation is expected to give Medicare beneficiaries immediate access to more than 225,000 additional licensed mental health professionals and to help close the widening treatment gap.

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Agency Events and News

Mental health treatment with a cultural relevant and Ethical approach Seminar

Cultural understanding plays a crucial role in the success and wellness of any therapeutic and professional setting. The purpose of this in-person and virtual continuing education seminar is to help mental health professionals, business professionals, and members of the community understand the influence of culture on mental health treatment and within the workplace environment.

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Stress Management Training

The word 'stress' is used to describe the physical and/or emotional response to the demands and pressures that modern living means we come under from time to time. Stress can be a positive thing, which drives us on and helps us to grow, develop, and be stimulated. However, when stress reaches a certain level, it can overcome a person's ability to cope and can impact their physical and mental health.

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Self-Forgiveness = Self-Love

Improve your relationship with yourself by participating in heart-centered Breathwork inside Tranquility's Salt Cave. The second hour, transition to a gentle Yoga flow to create loving mental thoughts. This is a powerful stress-releasing and restorative session as you will receive the benefits of Breathwork, Yoga and Halotherapy. Especially curated to enhance your well-being and self-love practice.

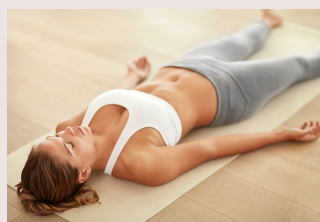
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Energy and Breath work for Chakra balance workshop

In a safe and compassionate group environment, you will be guided by Celebrity massage therapist and healer Tiya like Fiya, through a peaceful meditation into every chakra to clear it out and reset for the week to come. Register today as space is limited. You will leave full of Joy, hope, faith, peace, love and purpose. We look forward to seeing you smile.

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Ohio Medicaid's Next Generation program launch updated to February 1

Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) Director Maureen Corcoran announced a revised schedule for the next stage of implementation of the Next Generation managed care program. On Feb. 1, ODM will launch the Next Generation managed care plans and implement the new Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). Providers and members will experience no change to how they interact with Ohio Medicaid between now and the Feb. 1 launch.

Following the February launch, the full implementation of Ohio Medicaid Enterprise System (OMES) modules will be completed, to provide streamlined processes for claims, prior authorizations, and other administrative tasks for providers.

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NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

State Senator Files Bill to Help First Responders with Mental Health

Oklahoma Senator Julie Daniels, R-Bartlesville, filed a bill Wednesday that would make mental health wellness training for first responders mandatory to earn a peace officer certification. Senate Bill 379 would require eight hours of mental and behavioral health wellness training as part of the certification. It would also incorporate a continuing education requirement. "I want to address it from the employer's position and make sure that these professionals are fully trained to take care of themselves," said Daniels. Daniels said the job merits making sure first responders can take care of themselves.

At Fire Station 25 in Oklahoma City, fighting fires for the men and women who work there is less than 10 percent of the job. Around 70 percent of the calls that come in are medical emergencies, which means most times firefighters are the first on the scene.

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Providers say Medicare Advantage Hinders New Methadone Benefit

In 2018, responding to a wave of overdose deaths, Congress passed legislation requiring Medicare to pay for services at opioid treatment programs for the first time. But two years after Medicare began covering those programs, which use methadone and other medications to help reduce opioid use and overdose deaths, providers say their efforts are being hindered by Medicare Advantage — private insurance companies that administer benefits to about half of the Medicare population. They say the tactics Medicare Advantage has long used to control health care costs can also delay or block access to patient care, which can be especially dangerous or deadly for someone with a substance use disorder. Opioid treatment programs say they usually must first get approval from Medicare Advantage plans for their services to be paid for, a process that can take several days or weeks. Patients have been told they must pay for a portion of their care and get referrals from primary care doctors before starting treatment. Programs also say Medicare Advantage plans are slow to issue payments, if they pay at all, and also make it difficult to get on a list of covered providers called a network.

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Mark Your Calendar

February

[Black History Month](#)

February 4

[World Cancer Day](#)

February 14

[Valentine's Day](#)

February 17

[Random Acts of Kindness Day](#)

February 20

[Presidents' Day](#)

February 22

[World Thinking Day](#)

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