February 22, 2015

Dear Stakeholders:

Thank you for your comments and interest on our recent proposal to rebundle the Medicaid reimbursement rate for methadone treatment. This proposal was developed to align our payment policy to clinical best practices by addressing the practical needs of providers and participants by creating flexibility in the administration of methadone maintenance and the provision of counseling services.

Specifically, Medicaid proposed re-bundling the methadone reimbursement rate to include a reduced weekly rate per patient bundle for methadone maintenance, and adding to the reimbursement methodology the ability for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) to bill, for outpatient counseling (H0004 and H0005) separately, as clinically necessary. OTPs would also be able to separately bill for an alcohol and/or drug assessment (H0001).

The comments received by the Department have been reviewed, responded to and are posted to the Behavioral Health Integration website: http://dhmh.maryland.gov/bhd/Pages/Integration-Efforts.aspx. These comments will be considered as we update our proposal, which is slated to be released in **Mid-March**. Once the new proposal is posted, comments will be accepted for 21 days. A provider alert will be sent by Beacon Health Options, the Department's ASO, when the document is posted and we will also send out through the Behavioral Health Integration listserv, through the Medicaid Advisory Committee and to Local Health Officers.

Thank you again for your participation as we refine our methadone rebundling proposal; we take your input seriously and look forward to continued engagement. For additional information, please refer to the Behavioral Health Integration website for information or direct any questions to dhmh.medicaidsud@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Shannon McMahon
Deputy Secretary of Health Care Financing