

## November 20, 2018 Third Party Liability Recovery

On November 20, 2018, the Department of Human Services' (Department) Division of Third Party Liability (TPL) issued a Commercial TPL/Coordination of Benefits (COB) recoupment project through its TPL contractor, Health Management Systems, Inc. (HMS) related to claims originally paid by Medical Assistance (MA). The recovery was sent to provider type 01 (inpatient facility).

- This TPL/COB Recoupment Project encompasses recipients having Commercial coverage.
- TPL is seeking assistance from medical providers in recouping funds associated with recipients who had both commercial and MA coverage at the time the service was delivered. The Department was not aware of the coverage at the time of service delivery.
- TPL and its contractor, HMS, are continually identifying resources via eligibility data exchanges with commercial carriers. These are often identified after a claim is paid. It is a Federal requirement that TPL recoup payments when a third party is identified. MA is to be the payer of last resort.
- The claims in this project cover dates of service associated with Commercial resources from **May 1, 2016 through August 16, 2018**. The letter to providers related to this recoupment project includes the following: two listings of the claims being considered for recoupment; instructions for responding to the TPL/COB Recoupment Project; and, HMS contact information should the provider have questions.
- The letter also explains our expectation that the provider attempt to bill the commercial carrier. After the deadline date (60 days from the date of the letter), TPL will recoup the money electronically. Providers are asked not to submit checks or payments as a result of any payments they receive from the commercial carrier for the claims in this recoupment project, but they should supply documentation as explained in the project instructions to HMS to confirm receipt of denial from the commercial carrier.
- Since these are MA reclamation claims, the commercial carriers must honor the timely filing limits imposed by the Public Welfare Code under §1413(b)(c)(1)(2) related to MA claims presented for payment within five years of the date of service for claims with dates prior to July 1, 2007, and within three years for claims with a date of service on or after July 1, 2007. The Department recommends using the Timely Filing letter available on the Department's website when filing these claims to the commercial carriers.
- The commercial carriers must also honor claims regardless of the type or format of the claim or a failure to present proper documentation at the point of sale (this includes obtaining prior authorization from the commercial carriers).
- If co-insurance and deductible amounts are due, the providers should submit a new claim for these payments to HMS according to the

instructions included in the project. The new claim forms should be submitted only after the recovery has been completed. Providers will need to supply the ICN associated with the voided/retracted claim (ICN begins with Region Code '54') and the original ICN of the claim. Please send new billing forms only as the old forms will not be accepted.

- It is recommended that providers contact HMS at the toll-free number supplied in the instructions, if there are questions regarding this project.



November 20, 2018

Dear Medical Assistance Provider:

Attached is a list of claims paid by Medical Assistance (MA) that the Department of Human Services (Department) believes coordination of benefits should have occurred with a commercial carrier. This identified resource was not necessarily available on the Eligibility Verification System (EVS) when services were provided. Federal regulations at 42 C.F.R. § 433.139 require that the Department recover payments when a liable third party is identified. Likewise, pursuant to 55 Pa. Code § 1101.64, *Third Party Medical Resources*, MA is the payer of last resort; therefore, the commercial carrier is the liable third party payer.

The Department has contracted with Health Management Systems, Inc. (HMS) to perform these Third Party Liability (TPL) recovery activities. HMS researched MA paid claims for the period May 1, 2016 through August 16, 2018 and identified claims associated with recipients who were eligible for commercial coverage on the dates of service. HMS, on behalf of the Department, will recover funds for these claims paid by MA that should have been billed to the commercial carrier as the primary payer.

The Department will automatically recoup the total dollar amount/recoverable funds indicated on the attached listing under the column entitled "Recoup Amount" on a future Remittance Advice (RA) unless we receive documentation from your facility to refute the recoupment within sixty (60) days from the date of this notice. Since these are MA reclamation claims, commercial carriers (third party primary payers) must honor the timely filing requirements imposed by the Public Welfare Code at 62 P.S. § 1413(c)(2) related to MA claims presented for payment within three (3) years from the date of service. In addition, carriers cannot deny a Medicaid reclamation claim on the basis of a plan or contract provision that is inconsistent with subsection (c) which indicates that the commercial carrier must also honor claims regardless of the type or format of the claim or a failure to present proper documentation at the point of sale. Therefore, if you receive a rejection for timely filing, no prior authorization, no pre-certification, or failure to perform an administrative task pursuant to a separate agreement, please send the carrier a copy of the Timely Filing Letter available on the Department's website at <http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/provider/ThirdPartyLiability/index.htm> to assist with an appeal of the carrier denial. A denial associated with the untimely filing of a claim, a lack of prior authorization, a lack of pre-certification, etc. will not be acceptable to refute the recoupment of a claim. The **Instructions - PA Medicaid Recoupment Project** are attached.

If recoupment is not appropriate, please notify HMS by following the attached instructions. Enclosed are two (2) copies of the claims listings as well as guidelines that must be followed to ensure necessary information is supplied to HMS. These claims must be billed to the commercial carrier. Coverage information has been obtained from various resources. The Department recognizes that circumstances such as pre-existing conditions, exhausted benefits, or other contract limitations may exist, which could result in non-payment by the commercial carrier; however, proof of these circumstances must be obtained and forwarded to HMS.

Please note that this letter is being sent to the same location where the Department issues payment. If necessary, please forward this letter to the appropriate department/entity and ensure it is acted upon immediately. It is imperative that the appropriate personnel receive all notification and instructions regarding this recoupment action. Your response must include all required and necessary correspondences as noted in the attached recoupment guidelines. If you expect a delay in third party processing, you must contact the phone number below **prior** to the deadline to request an extension.

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHECKS OR CASH**



**All correspondence, documentation, and inquiries regarding this recoupment notice must be directed to:**

Health Management Systems, Inc.  
Attn: Provider Relations, PA MC  
5615 High Point Drive, Suite 100  
Irving, TX 75038  
1-877-266-1090 (toll free) Fax: (214) 905-2064

**Note:** If these instructions are not followed and/or the deadlines are not met, any claim re-submissions other than for coinsurance/deductible will not be accepted. The only course of action will be to appeal to the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals as indicated on the Remittance Advice banner page.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this effort to ensure appropriate expenditure of MA funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Shoop". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Shoop, TPL Division Director

**INSTRUCTIONS – PA MEDICAID RECOUPMENT PROJECT**

As stated in the attached letter from the Department, HMS is assisting the Department with its TPL recovery program. After reviewing paid claims, HMS found that the recipients associated with claims on the attached listing(s) were eligible for commercial coverage on the date(s) of service. Please follow the instructions below when billing these claims to the commercial carrier.

1. **DO NOT SEND CHECKS, CASH, OR A VOID REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT.** There will be no mechanism to stop the recoupment other than those mentioned in these instructions. Refund checks cannot be accepted. Recoverable funds will be recouped on a future Remittance Advice (RA). A banner page will accompany the RA to alert you to the recoupment.
2. If you receive payment from a third party equal to or greater than the MA fee you were paid, **DO NOT RESPOND** to this notice. **The Department will process the claim adjustment to recover funds for any claim for which a response is not received.**
3. Two (2) copies of the list have been provided. Please retain one copy for your records and **return the second to HMS at the address shown below** with the following if you wish to refute the recovery of any claims:
  - A. Any current commercial carrier denials/Explanation of Benefits (EOB) that your facility receives on these claims **must** accompany the listing.
  - B. A copy of a MA remittance advice on which a prior recoupment is shown on these claims.
  - C. A contact person along with a telephone number on any reply to this notice.

**\*\*Important** - Please make a notation next to each claim that you agree should be recouped by the Department with an "R" for recoupment or with the word "Agree" to indicate that you have reviewed these claims and agree that the funds should be recouped by the Department.
4. **Only AFTER the claim is processed and the funds are retracted by the Department,** a new paper claim (black and white copy acceptable) **and EOB**, not a claim adjustment, should be submitted when MA is responsible for payment of the deductible or coinsurance charges. The new paper claim must follow all Department claim submission guidelines. In addition, the original ICN **and** the Adjustment ICN (begins with Region Code "54") should be placed on the UB-04 paper claim in Box 80 – Remarks or on the CMS -1500 in space at the bottom of the claim. The Department will process these new paper claims after the recoupment has been completed.
5. Again, **to prevent recoupment**, you should immediately:
  - A. Review your records
  - B. Bill the commercial carrier, if you have not already done so, and then
  - C. Forward any acceptable denials or other documentation within **60 days** from the date of this notice to:

Health Management Systems, Inc.  
Attn: Provider Relations, PA MC  
5615 High Point Drive, Suite 100  
Irving, TX 75038



If you expect a delay in Third Party processing, contact HMS below prior to the deadline to request an extension, Direct questions to Health Management Systems Provider Relations 1-877-266-1090 (toll free) or Fax: (214) 905-2064.

6. Provider/Service Location:

The Department will recover payment of these claims from the provider number and service location listed on the claims report. If you are no longer billing from this service location or want the Department to recover the payment from another service location, please contact the number listed above.