



An Anthem Company

Provider Bulletin
June 2020

Mental health services cost share waiver expanded to Medicaid

Empire BlueCross BlueShield (Empire) is closely monitoring COVID-19 developments and working to create solutions that address not just the physical toll of this crisis, but also the mental health needs in the state. As of May 2, 2020, Empire is waiving cost sharing for in-network outpatient mental health services for Empire members enrolled in Essential Plan, including essential workers.

The regulation became effective on May 2, 2020 and applies to any outpatient mental health service provided on or after that date, even if a course of treatment began prior to that date.

This action is an addition to the proactive steps Empire has taken to support care providers and protect our members, associates and communities against COVID-19, including waiving cost sharing for testing treatment, expanding access to telehealth, and streamlining administrative work to ensure hospitals and providers can deliver care to more patients quickly and effectively.

We previously communicated this [update](#) for essential workers, as well as all of our fully-insured employer and individual plans. This coverage is expanded to Medicaid and is compliant with New York Department of Financial Services (DFS) [Insurance Regulation 62](#). For more information on the regulation, review DFS regulation, available [here](#).

As of May 2, 2020, in-network outpatient providers were advised that they may not collect any deductible*, copayment or coinsurance on outpatient mental health services for New York fully insured members.

* Waiver of cost sharing does not apply to deductibles for high deductible health plans.

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