DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS
Narcotic Treatment Programs Advisory Committee
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Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) Billing Policy Questions & Answers

1. DMC billings are frequently denied for patients with Other Health Coverage (OHC), what is the state's position and plan for resolution on this issue?

   A. ADP must comply with laws and regulations set forth for DMC. The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) is the lead agency for administering California's Medicaid (Medi-Cal) Program. As the lead agency, DHCS provides Medi-Cal claim processing and payment guidance to other state departments. DHCS requires that Medi-Cal providers bill a client's OHC prior to billing Medi-Cal to receive either payment from the OHC, or a notice of denial from the OHC indicating that:
      - The recipient's OHC coverage has been exhausted, or
      - The specific service is not a benefit of the OHC.

      ADP Bulletin 11-01 (attached) provides detailed information regarding processing of DMC claims for patients with OHC including:
      - Criteria for billing DMC without billing OHC
      - Delayed or no OHC response,
      - Appropriate OHC denial or adjustment reasons,
      - Clients with multiple OHC carriers,
      - Claim to OHC receiving partial payment,
      - Provider responsibility to identify and bill OHC,
      - DMC claim submission for confidential minor consent services provided to clients without minor-consent-only aid codes who have OHC, and
      - Records retention

2. Payments are getting denied when other modalities bill for counseling services before NTPs can get their billing in by the end of each month.

   A. Title 22 for DMC is very specific on what duplicate services are allowed for the same client on the same day. The combination of a NTP counseling service and another type of DMC counseling service is not an allowable duplicate service. Also, the system (and the State) does not have control over who submits claims first or not. Providers are recommended to discuss with the patient why they are receiving other counseling services, such as Outpatient Drug Free, from another provider on the same day of services at the NTP.