



MONTANA HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS NOTICE

October 15, 2021

Opticians and Optometrists

Informational

Optometric Services Claims Processing Delay

Effective immediately, optometric service providers will see a delay in Medicaid claims processing. The final adoption of MAR 37-944 removed the proposed increases for optometric services. With the removal of the proposed optometric service rate increases, the Department must manually price all optometric claims with a date of service on or after July 1, 2021. This process is to ensure optometric services claims price under the January 2021 fee schedule for opticians and optometrists as adopted in MAR 37-944.

During the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee on September 22, 2021, the committee objected to the portion of MAR Notice No. 37-944 regarding optometric services rate changes. This objection has delayed the adoption of the proposed July 1, 2021 rate increases for opticians and optometrists.

This objection to optometry service rates prevented the Department from adopting those rates concurrent with all other RBRVS rates; therefore, the Department's fiscal agent must process optometry claims separately from other claims. The Department is currently working with its claims processing contractor to determine the best mechanism for pricing optometry service claims at the January 1, 2021 fee schedule until rate increases are approved.

This requires that DPHHS suspend all optometry service claims until special processing can be achieved. As a result, optometry service providers will see a delay in payment. DPHHS and its claims processing contractor are working diligently to find the resources to accommodate the requirement for special processing.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact the Optometric Services Program Officer at (406) 444-4066.

For claims questions or additional information, contact Montana Provider Relations at (800) 624-3958 or (406) 442-1837 or email [Montana Provider Relations Helpdesk](#).

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