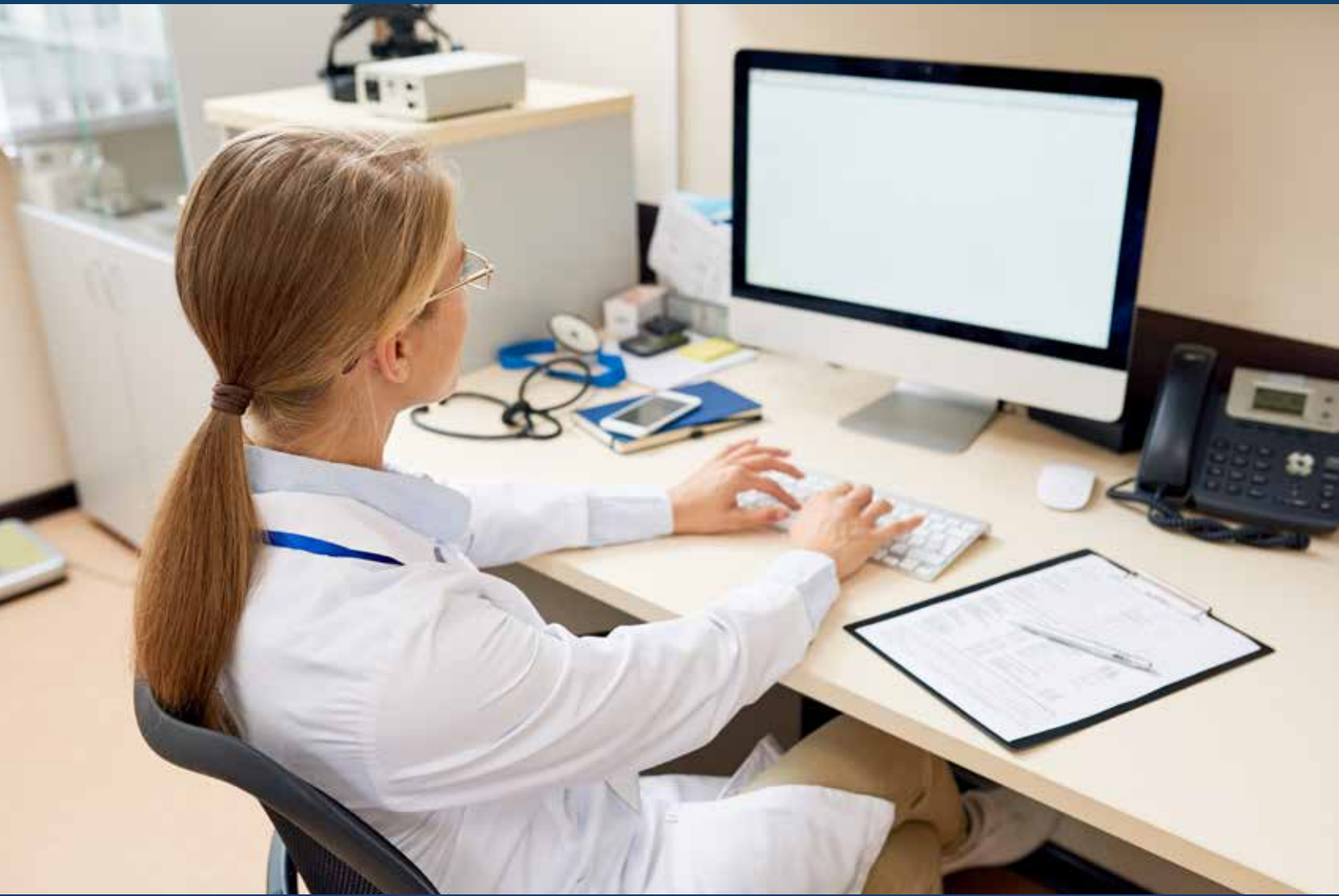


DOING BUSINESS WITH OPTIMA HEALTH



Optima Health 

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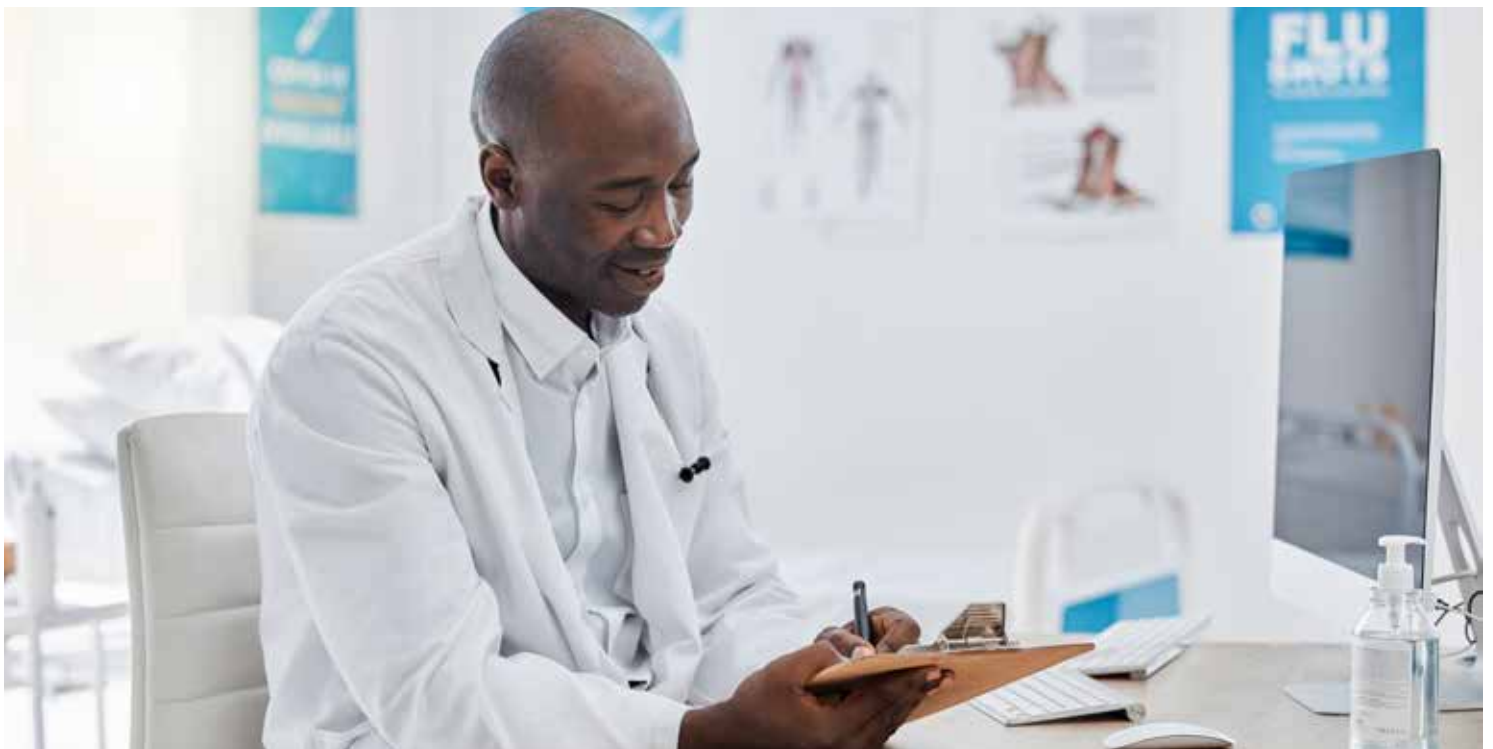
This guide is designed to orient providers on best practices to conduct business with Optima Health successfully. [The Optima Health Provider Manual](#)—a more extensive resource—is your trusted source for the health plan’s policies and procedures.

PRSS Enrollment

All Medicaid managed care network providers must enroll through PRSS to satisfy and comply with federal requirements in the 21st Century Cures Act. Network providers who are currently enrolled as fee-for-service (FFS) in Medicaid do not need to reenroll in PRSS.

Main Points:

- From virginia.hppcloud.com/, go to “Menu,” then “Provider Enrollment,” and select either “New Enrollment” or “Enrollment Status.”
- Only one enrollment application is necessary in PRSS, even if you participate with more than one managed care organization (MCO).
- All new MCO-only providers must first enroll with PRSS prior to requesting credentialing with one or more of the managed care health plans.



- Be free from any form of restraint or seclusion used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation, as specified in federal regulations on the use of restraints and seclusion.
- Be furnished healthcare services in accordance with 42 CFR §§ 438.206 through 438.210.
- Be treated with respect and with due consideration for their dignity and privacy.
- Call Member Services to file a complaint/grievance about Optima Health, or to file an appeal if they are not happy with the answer to their inquiry (question), complaint/grievance, or care given.
- Choose their personal Optima Health doctor/primary care physician (PCP). You can find the [Provider Directory](#) online at optimahealth.com. Contact Member Services for assistance.
- Change their personal Optima Health doctor and choose another one from our Provider Directory. The Provider Directory can be found online, or call Member Services for assistance.
- Have healthcare services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including urgent, emergency, and post-stabilization services.
- Have their doctor tell them about all treatment options and alternatives, presented in a manner that can be easily understood—regardless of the cost or benefit coverage. They can also receive a second opinion from our network of providers.
- Have timely access to their medical records in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. They may be required to sign for release of those records.
- Not to be balance billed by any provider for covered services other than the patient pay established by DSS toward LTSS services.
- Not to be discriminated against due to: medical conditions, including physical and mental illness; claims experience; receipt of healthcare; and medical history.
- Not to be treated against their will.
- Participate with their doctor in making decisions about their healthcare, give their consent for all care, and make decisions to accept or refuse medical care to the extent permitted by law and be made aware of the medical consequences of such action.
- Provide language assistance services, including but not limited to interpreter and translation services and effective communication assistance in alternative formats, such as auxiliary aids, free of charge to members and/or the member's representative.



- Receive information on available treatment options and alternatives presented in a manner appropriate to the member's condition and ability to understand.
- To use advance directives (such as a "Living Will" or a "Power of Attorney"). Provide information to members about advance directives and any changes made in state law as soon as possible but no later than 90 days after the effective date of change.
- Act in a way that supports the care given to other patients and helps the smooth running of their doctor's office, hospitals, and other departments.
- Always carry their and/or their child's Optima Health member ID card with them.
- Choose their and/or their child's Optima Health PCP from the list of our doctors from the provider directory. Work with their PCP to help establish a proper patient-physician relationship.
- Follow plans and instructions for care given by their physician.
- Get their healthcare from a participating PCP, hospital, or other healthcare provider.
- Give their PCP and other providers honest and complete information they need about the member's health to care for them.
- Inform their PCP of visits to other doctors so that they can be kept informed about the care that the member is receiving.
- Inform Optima Health if they have other health insurance coverage.
- Keep their doctor's appointments or call to cancel them at least 24 hours ahead of the appointment time.
- Learn the difference between emergency and urgent care. Know what is considered an emergency, what to do if an emergency happens, and how to keep one from happening.
- Let Optima Health know if they have any problems, concerns, or suggestions on how we can work better for them.
- Take into advisement the recommendations of the care managers and other healthcare professionals at Optima Health.
- Tell the doctor that they are a member of Optima Health at the time that they speak with their doctor's office.
- Understand their health problems and discuss/agree upon a treatment plan with their physician.



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- 1. Program Information:** The health plan will provide a provider manual—accessible online—containing current information concerning policies and procedures. The health plan agrees to update as changes in requirements are made by law or otherwise.
- 2. Provider Education:** The health plan communicates important updates and other information through various methods, including but not limited to quarterly newsletters, webinars, and email announcements. The purpose of these communications is to convey best practices so you can do business with us successfully.
- 3. Provider Network:** Sentara Health Plans, Inc. (SHP) will include the provider in the General Network of Participating Providers.
- 4. Member Eligibility Verification:** SHP agrees to provide a mechanism that allows providers to verify member eligibility before rendering services, based on current information held by SHP.
- 5. Prior Authorization:** Request forms, policies, and procedures will be made available on our website.
- 6. Timely Notification:** Provide notice of policy and procedure changes with no fewer than 60 days prior notice.

Provider Commitments

- Provide Services:** Provide covered doula services to Optima Health members.
- Maintenance of Credentials:** Maintain and submit to Optima Health, upon request, evidence of licensure, accreditation, registration, certification, and all other credentials sufficient to meet all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.
- Provider Locations:** Provide covered services only at locations permitted under contract.
- Notifications:** Give prior written notice to Optima Health as soon as possible, but at least 90 days before, any change to the information about the provider included in the provider network directory.
- Compliance With Sentara Health Plans, Inc. (SHP) and Payor Programs, Policies, and Procedures:** Provider complies fully with all programs, policies, and procedures, as applicable.
- Waiver of Copayments, Coinsurance, and Deductibles:** Collects all applicable coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles from members, and shall not waive the collection of such coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles without the written consent of SHP.
- Noncovered Services:** Provider agrees not to bill, charge, or seek compensation or reimbursement of any kind from any member, SHP, or any Payor for healthcare services and/or supplies provided determined not medically necessary or covered services.
- Access to and Inspection of Records:** Upon reasonable notice—and during regular business hours—provide access by the health plan or its designee to inspect, audit, review, and make copies of records related to covered services rendered to Optima Health members.

Active Provider Connection users save valuable time by enrolling in the self-service password reset process

1. Set up your security questions to activate password reset capabilities.
2. Wait 24 hours so our systems can synchronize.

Download related resources on [our website](#).

Important Reminders:

- All users accessing Provider Connection must complete a two-step login for added security.
- Users must set up seven security questions to activate self-service password reset capabilities.
- Log in a minimum of once over 90 days to keep your provider portal profile active. If your account expires, you may request assistance at Providerconnectionsupport@sentara.com.



Service	Optima Medicaid Standard
Emergency Appointments, Including Crisis Services	Emergency appointments and services, including crisis services, must be made available immediately upon the member's request.
Urgent Appointments	Within 24 hours of the member's request
Routine Primary Care	Routine, primary care service appointments must be made within 30 calendar days of the member's request. Standard does not apply to appointments for routine physical examinations, regularly scheduled visits to monitor a chronic medical condition if the schedule calls for visits less frequently than once every 30 days, or routine specialty services—such as dermatology, allergy care, etc.
Maternity Care—First Trimester	Within 7 calendar days of request
Maternity Care—Second Trimester	Within 7 calendar days of request
Maternity Care—Third Trimester	Within 3 business days of request
Maternity Care—High-Risk Pregnancy	Within 3 business days of high-risk identification, or immediate emergency exits
Postpartum	Within 60 days of delivery
Mental Health Services	As expeditiously as the member's condition requires and within no more than 5 business days from Optima Health's determination that coverage criteria is met
Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)	As expeditiously as the member's condition requires and within no more than 5 business days from Optima Health's determination that coverage criteria is met

Managing Care Gaps

To ensure optimal, timely service for our members and close gaps in patient care, we encourage following the protocol below:

- Use appropriate documentation and correct coding.
- Maintain appointment availability for patients with recent emergency department visits.
- Explain the importance of follow-up appointments to your patients.
- Contact patients who do not keep initial appointments and reschedule them as soon as possible.
- Encourage follow-up visits via telehealth when appropriate to the principal diagnosis.
- Submit claims and encounter data promptly.

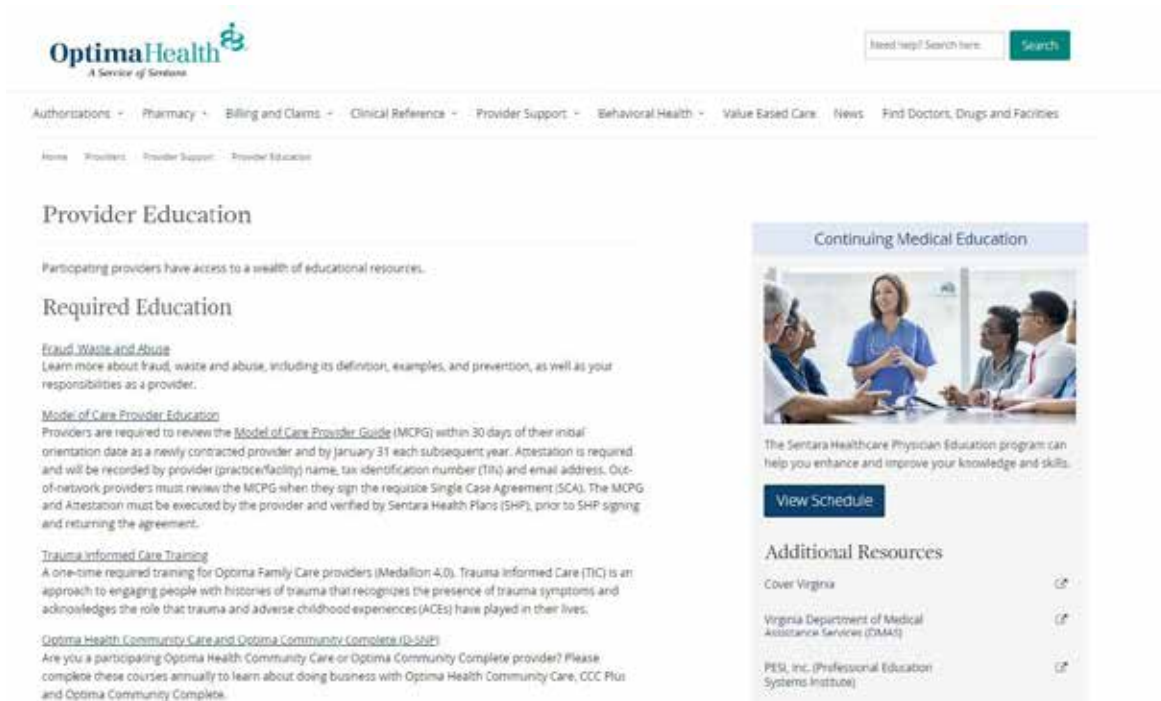
Required Annually

- Model of Care-Providers are required to review the [Model of Care Provider Guide](#) (MCPG) within 30 days of their initial orientation date as a newly contracted provider and by January 31 each subsequent year. Attestation is required and will be recorded by provider (practice/facility) name, tax identification number (TIN), and email address. Out-of-network providers must review the MCPG when they sign the requisite Single Case Agreement (SCA).

Encouraged

- Fraud, Waste, and Abuse
- Cultural Competency
- Trauma-informed Care`
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

Providers are asked to complete [training requirements](#) within 30 days of their initial orientation date.



The screenshot shows the OptimaHealth website's Provider Education section. The page title is "Provider Education" and it includes a search bar at the top right. The main content area is titled "Required Education" and lists several topics: "Fraud, Waste and Abuse", "Model of Care Provider Education", "Trauma Informed Care Training", and "Optima Health Community Care and Optima Community Complete (O-CCP)". To the right, there is a "Continuing Medical Education" section with a "View Schedule" button and an "Additional Resources" section listing "Cover Virginia", "Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)", and "PESI, Inc. (Professional Education Systems Institute)".

Resources for EPSDT Providers

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program ensures pediatric patients receive regular screenings to avoid delays in diagnosis and treatment. By visiting the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) website, providers can access educational materials, schedules, approved screening tools, and other resources needed to provide the best care for patients.

Optima Health's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) Provider Guide is also available [online](#) for review or printing.

Model of Care

Optima Health is uniquely positioned to provide care to the Managed Long-Term Services and Support Program (MLTSS) dual eligible population given our long-term experience with Medicaid; the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) population; and Elderly or Disabled With Consumer Direction (EDCD) participants through the Medalion 4.0 and 3.0 programs and Medicare Advantage. We have been successfully administering a Medicaid health plan in the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1996 and our current Medicare Advantage plan since 2014.



Providers are required to review the [Model of Care Provider Guide](#) (MCPG) within 30 days of their initial orientation date as a newly contracted provider and by January 31 each subsequent year. Attestation is required and will be recorded by provider (practice/facility) name, tax identification number (TIN), and email address. Out-of-network providers must review the MCPG when they sign the requisite Single Case Agreement (SCA). Training curricula are designed to ensure effective and efficient delivery of quality care to Optima Health members as well as adherence to federal and state regulations.

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (FWA)

Detecting FWA

Optima Health is responsible for detecting and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in accordance with the Deficit Reduction Act and the False Claims Act.

Optima Health will conduct investigations of suspected fraud, waste, and abuse of its personnel, participating providers, subcontractors, and enrollees. There is no financial threshold for case notifications. Reportable fraud, waste, or abuses may include:

- emerging fraud schemes
- suspected internal fraud or abuse by employee(s), contractor(s), or subcontractor(s)
- suspected fraud by providers who supply goods or services to Optima Health members
- suspected fraud by Optima Health members

Reporting Abuse

- Hotline: 1-866-826-5277
- Email: compliancealert@sentara.com
- U.S. Mail: Optima Health C/O Special Investigations
Unit 4417 Corporation Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
- Refer to [Provider Manual](#) for more detail on this subject.

Accurate Coding and Billing

When you submit a claim for services performed for a patient, you are filing a bill and certifying that you earned the payment requested and complied with the billing requirements. If you knew or should have known a submitted claim was false, then the attempt to collect payment is illegal. Examples of improper claims include billing for services:

- you did not actually render or were not medically necessary
- performed by an improperly-supervised or unqualified employee
- performed by an employee who has been excluded from participation in federal healthcare programs
- of such low quality that they are virtually worthless
- separately that were already included in a global fee, such as billing for an evaluation and management service the day after surgery (does not apply to appropriately-bundled services)

Member Identification

View/Print Member ID Card Samples

OPTIMA COMMUNITY CARE

Member Name: <Member Name>
 Member Number: <XXXXXXXX*XX>
 Group Number: <XXX>
 Medicaid #: <XXXXXXXXXXXXXX>
 PCP Name: <PCP Name>
 PCP Number: <XXX-XXX-XXXX>
 DOB: <XX-XX-XXXX>
 Member Effective Date: <MM/DD/YY>

RxBIN: 003858
 RxPCN: MA
 RxGRP: OHPMDCD

FAMIS

Virginia's Medicaid Program

Detailed benefit information at optimahealth.com and our mobile app

Pre-Authorization may be required for: hospitalization, outpatient surgery, therapies, advanced imaging, DME, home health, skilled nursing, acute rehab, or prosthetics.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY: Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. Always call your Primary Care Physician for non-emergent care.

Member Services: <i>(Hearing Impaired/Virginia Relay: 711)</i>	1-800-881-2166
Behavioral Health/ARTS Crisis Line:	1-888-946-1168
Provider Services: <i>(Including Pre-Authorization)</i>	1-888-946-1167
24/7 Nurse Advice Line:	1-800-394-2237
Pharmacist Help Desk: <i>(Including Pre-Authorization)</i>	1-844-604-9165
Dental:	1-888-912-3456

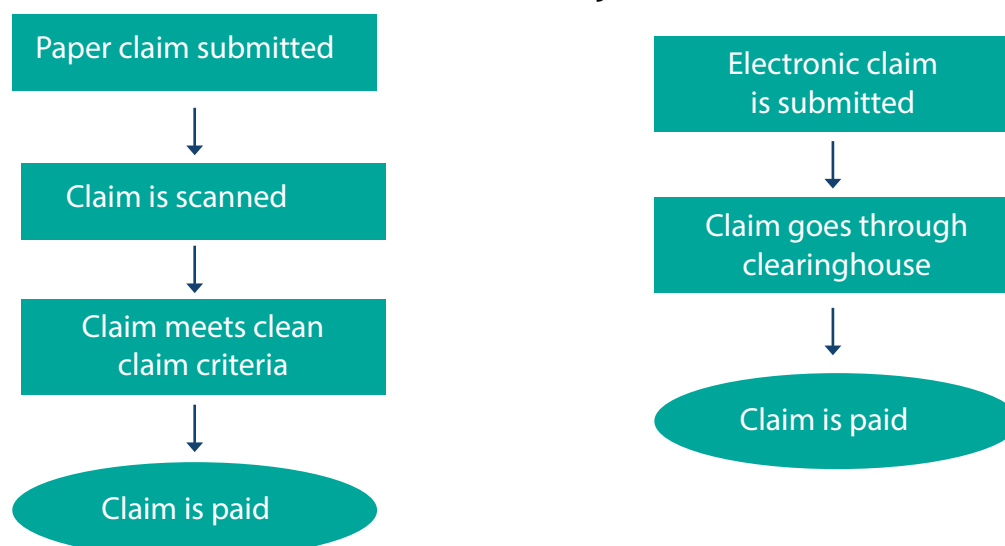
Medical Claims	Behavioral Health Claims	Optima Health
P.O. Box 5028	P.O. Box 1440	P.O. Box 66189
Troy, MI 48007-5028	Troy, MI 48099-1440	Virginia Beach, VA 23466

By entering into a provider agreement, you have agreed to accept payment directly from Optima Health. This constitutes payment in full for the covered services you render to members, except for copayments, coinsurance, deductibles, and any other monies listed in the “Patient Responsibility” portion of the remittance advice. You may not bill members for covered services rendered or balance bill members for the difference between your actual charge and the contracted amount. In cases where the copayment is greater than the allowed amount for services rendered, only the allowed amount for the services should be collected. Should you collect more than the allowed amount, you will be expected to refund the member the difference between the two amounts.

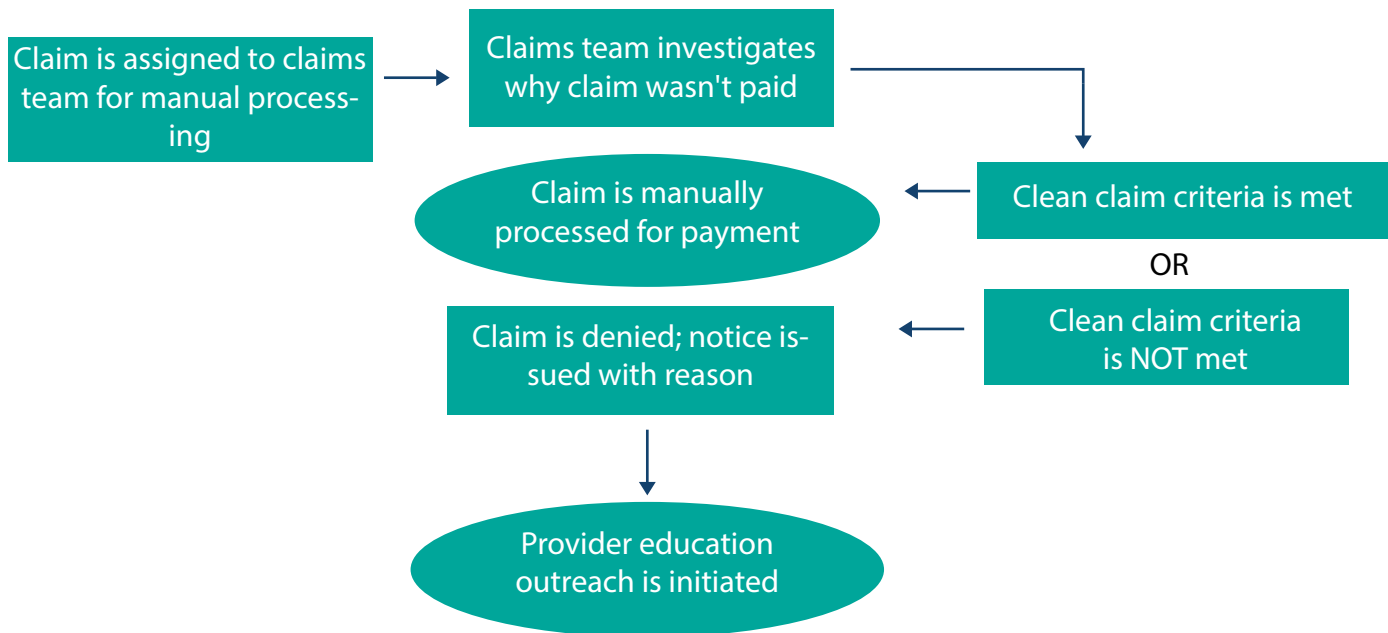
Critical Elements of Compensation and Billing:

1. **Rates and Compensation:** Provider will collect payments for covered services.
2. **Provisions:** Provider will not limit the provision of covered services to a member because of or based on any compensation arrangement between Sentara Health Plans, Inc. (SHP) and provider.
3. **Billing:** Provider will bill for covered services according to billing and claims submission policies as outlined in the provider manual.
4. **Filing:** Provider will file in a timely manner—no more than 365 days after a service is rendered.
5. **Claims:** Provider shall make its best efforts to file clean claims.
6. **Payment Denial:** Claims received by SHP after the 365-day period may be denied for payment. Provider shall not seek any payment from members for claims denied by SHP under this section.
7. **NPI Number:** Provider must submit claims to Optima Health that include individual and group practice National Provider Identifier (NPI) numbers and taxonomy codes. Claims received without an NPI number will be rejected or denied.
8. **Taxonomy Code:** Providers will submit the correct taxonomy code, which is required for billing. Claims received without the taxonomy code will be rejected or denied.
9. **Referrals:** Provider will submit a referral form to the health plan prior to providing services for a member.

Clean Claim/Auto Adjudication:



Clean Claim Criteria Not Met:



Common Reasons for Denial of Payment

- errors in member name – hyphenated last names must be submitted correctly
- incorrect birthday submitted – claims must match the birth date associated with the member ID number

For a complete list of the most common errors in completing the CMS 1500, see page 81 in the [provider manual](#).

Completing Paper Claims

Optima Health requires the 02-12 version of the CM-1500 claim form. For guidance on filling out a paper form, we refer to [NUCC guidelines](#).

- To expedite payment and avoid the resubmission of claims, fill out the CMS-1500 claim form as thoroughly and accurately as possible.
- Submit claims containing all data elements and industry-standard coding conventions.

Paper claims must be mailed to:

Medical Claims
 PO Box 5028
 Troy, MI 48007-5028

Behavioral Health Claims
 PO Box 1440
 Troy, MI 48099-1440

Filing Claims Electronically

Optima Health's preferred method of billing and payment is electronic. Electronic funds transfer (EFT) is safe, secure, and efficient, as well as less expensive than paper check payments. Clean claims are processed and paid by Optima Health within an average of seven days when submitted electronically and when payment is made through EFT. Funds are typically deposited 24 hours after payments are processed. Providers are encouraged to enroll for EFT by completing the [Electronic Payment/Remittance Authorization Agreement](#) on the Provider Web Portal.

Providers that submit claims through Optima Health's electronic claims program enjoy several benefits: thorough documentation of claim transmissions, faster reimbursement, reduced claim suspensions, and lower administrative costs.

- Claims can be submitted directly through—or with any clearinghouse that can connect to— AllScripts/ PayerPath or Availity. Electronic claims may also be submitted directly to Optima Health by a provider or vendor via data files in a HIPAA-compliant format.
- The Optima Health Payor ID Number is:
 - 54154 for medical providers
 - 5415M for behavioral health providers
 - 00453 for institutional providers
- Providers who can receive data files in the HIPAA compliant ANSI 835 format may elect to receive EFT/ ERA directly from Optima Health. The 835 transaction contains the remittance information as well as the Electronic Funds Transfer. Inquiries about direct claims submission or EFT/ERA transactions may be submitted by email to EFT_ERA_Inquiry@sentara.com.

New PaySpan Users – How to Register: Providers can contact providersupport@payspan.com or call 1-877-331-7154, option 1, for assistance with obtaining registration codes and navigating the website. Provider Services Specialists are available to assist Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. If a provider is not loaded in Optima Health's new claims platform—or receives feedback from PaySpan that they are a "new user" with no provider entry in PaySpan system—the provider will need to submit a claim to Optima Health and receive a paper check. This check will include registration information for PaySpan.

For Current PaySpan Users:

If providers already have an account, there will be a single registration code that is tied to the entry payment. If there are multiple pay to entries in Optima Health's claims platforms, providers will have multiple registration codes. To obtain codes, providers can contact PaySpan and provide Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs)/ National Provider Identifiers (NPIs). If there are any questions, please contact a PaySpan Provider Service Representative at 1-877-331-7154. Please see this [video link](#) to learn more about PaySpan.

Medicaid, Commercial and Self-Funded

1. Complete the electronic funds transfer (EFT) and electronic remittance advice (ERA) Authorization Agreement PDF form in its entirety.
2. Obtain a letter from your bank. Ensure the letterhead includes the physical bank address; account number; and the bank employee's name, title, email, and phone number. Letters must not be dated more than 90 days prior.
3. Form must be signed by the provider or an authorized representative of the provider.
4. Submit all documents by email to EFT_ERA_Inquiry@sentara.com or fax to 757-252-8037.
5. Optima Health will validate the provider's relationship with the banking institution.
6. Tax ID information will be validated in the payment system.
7. Once the process is complete, the EFT information will be input into the payment system and the provider will be notified that the setup has been completed.

Visit [our website](#) for more information.



For services rendered, providers have the right to appeal adverse actions after exhausting the Optima Health reconsideration process. Providers cannot appeal Optima Health's enrollment or termination decisions to the DMAS Appeals Division.

Appeal Process

If your claim denial is upheld **after the reconsideration process**, you have the option to file an appeal.

Appeals may be submitted in writing within 365 days from the date of service. Detailed information and supporting written documentation should accompany the appeal. A decision will be rendered within 45 business days of receipt of the appeal request.

Optima Health Appeals Dept.
PO Box 62876
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2876

Refund Process

When sending a refund, please send a copy of the remit, an outline of the reason the claim was paid in error, and a check to:

Optima Health Recovery Unit
PO Box 61732
Virginia Beach, VA 23462



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The preferred method to obtain an authorization is through Provider Connection—the Optima Health secure provider portal. Providers are encouraged to use Provider Connection whenever possible to expedite the authorization process.

Receiving authorization is contingent upon medical necessity, as supported by medical criteria and standards of care. Optima Health does not provide incentives to influence authorization decisions, promote denials of coverage of care, nor encourage the under-utilization of services. Optima Health follows the National Committee for Quality Assurance guidelines for the timeliness of utilization-management decisions.

Elective Admissions

Requests for elective admissions must be submitted for prior authorization fourteen (14) days prior to scheduling an admission or procedure. Treatment by nonparticipating providers must receive authorization from Optima Health in the same time frame as above.

The requesting provider should receive an authorization for services within fourteen (14) days if all the necessary clinical information was provided with the initial authorization request and the service is covered under the member's benefit plan. Lack of clinical information to support authorization approval will delay processing.

Failure To Obtain Authorization

Failure to obtain authorization for services will result in the denial of payment, and the provider may be held responsible for the cost of services rendered. Authorization determines medical necessity. It does not determine

the level of payment or coverage and therefore does not guarantee payment. Payment decisions are also based on the eligibility for services on the procedure date and benefits provided through the member's health plan. Please see the [Optima Health Provider Manual](#) for the list of services requiring authorization—except in the case of emergency treatment.

Urgent Authorization Requests

Authorization may also be obtained by phone for medically urgent requests. Clinical Care Services personnel are available to process faxed requests and medically urgent telephone requests Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST. A confidential voicemail is available between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 a.m., Monday through Friday, and 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays. Please note on the authorization form if the request is urgent and requires expedited review. To qualify for urgent authorization: the failure of an immediate review would otherwise result in loss of life or limb or result in permanent injury.



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- **American Specialty Health Network (ASHN)**; Chiropractor Network claims are paid through ASHN; Commercial and Medicare Only; 1-800-848-3555
- **DentaQuest**: Dental Network; Commercial and Medicare; Medicaid is handled by DMAS directly; 1-888-278-7310
- **Verida** (formerly Southeastrans): Transportation Vendor; Commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid: transport_noner@Sentara.com.
- **Epic Hearing**: Discounted service for Hearing Aids; Commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid; 1-866-956-5400
- **MDLive**: Virtual Visits; Commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid;
- **Nations Hearing**: Discounted services for Medicare and Medicaid Members
- **Vision Services Plan (VSP)**: Routine Vision Care Only Commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid
- **Community Eye Care (CEC)**: A subsidiary of VSP will service all Medicare
- **LabCorp**: Commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid
- **Quest Diagnostics**: Commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid



You must maintain accurate and complete medical records and documentation of the services you provide and ensure they support submitted claims for payment.

Good documentation ensures your patients receive appropriate care from you and other providers who may rely on your records for patients' medical histories.

“If the service was not documented, it was not done.”

Medical Records

Optima Health may request medical records for review. Listed below are the current medical record standards:

- Active problem list must be current and maintained for each member. It should be legible and updated as appropriate. Significant illnesses and chronic medical conditions must be documented on the problem list. If there are no identified significant problems, there must be some notation in the progress notes stating that this is a well-child/adult visit.
- Allergies and adverse reactions must be prominently displayed. If the member has no known allergies nor history of adverse reactions, these are appropriately noted in the record. A sticker or stamp noting allergies/no known allergies (NKA) on the cover of the medical record is acceptable.
- Past medical history—for patients seen three or more times—must be easily identified and include family history, serious accidents, operations, and illnesses. For children and adolescents 18 years and younger, past medical history relates to prenatal care, birth, operations, immunizations, and childhood illness.
- Each page of the medical record is to contain patient name or ID number. All entries are dated. Working diagnoses and treatment plans are consistent with medical findings.
- All requested consults must have return reports from the requested consultant, or a phone call follow-up must be noted by the PCP in the progress note. Any further follow-up needed, or altered treatment plans, should be included in progress notes. Consults filed in the chart must be initialed by the PCP to signify review. Consults submitted electronically must show representation of PCP review.
- Continuity and coordination of care among all providers involved in an episode of care—including PCP and specialty physicians, hospitals, home health, skilled nursing facilities, free-standing surgical Centers, etc.—must be documented when applicable.
- There should be documentation present in the records of all adult patients (emancipated minors included) that advance directives have been discussed. If the patient does have an advance directive, it should be noted and a copy included in the medical record.
- Confidentiality of clinical information relevant to the patient under review is contained in the record or in a secure computer system—stored in and accessible from a nonpublic area—and available upon identification by an approved person. All office staff must comply with HIPAA privacy practices.

- An assessment of smoking, alcohol, or substance abuse should be documented in the record for patients 12 years old and older. Referrals to a Behavioral Health Specialist should be documented as appropriate.
- Records should indicate that preventive screening services are offered in accordance with our Preventive Health Guidelines. This should be documented in the progress notes for adults 21 years and older.

Behavioral Health Records

Medical records may be audited according to Optima Behavioral Health Treatment Record Documentation Guidelines, which incorporate accepted standards for medical record documentation as shown below:

- history of present illness
- psychiatric history
- substance use assessment
- mental status examination
- diagnosis (all five axes)
- medical history, including allergies and adverse reactions (physicians only)
- medication management (physicians only)
- allergies and adverse reactions to medications
- treatment planning
- risk assessment
- evidence of continuity of care



Evidence of continuity of care involves the documentation of collaboration with the member's PCP regarding medication and treatment rendered, or documentation of the member's refusal to consent to the same. After obtaining the patient's informed consent prior to the release of information, the provider is expected to notify the PCP when the member presents for an initial behavioral health evaluation and continued treatment, including significant changes in the patient's condition, adjustments in medication, and termination of treatment.

Patient information should be in chronological or reverse chronological order and in a consistent, logical format.

Reporting critical incidents:

- ensures member/patient safety
- avoids repeatable errors
- addresses areas of concern
- complies with regulatory reporting requirements

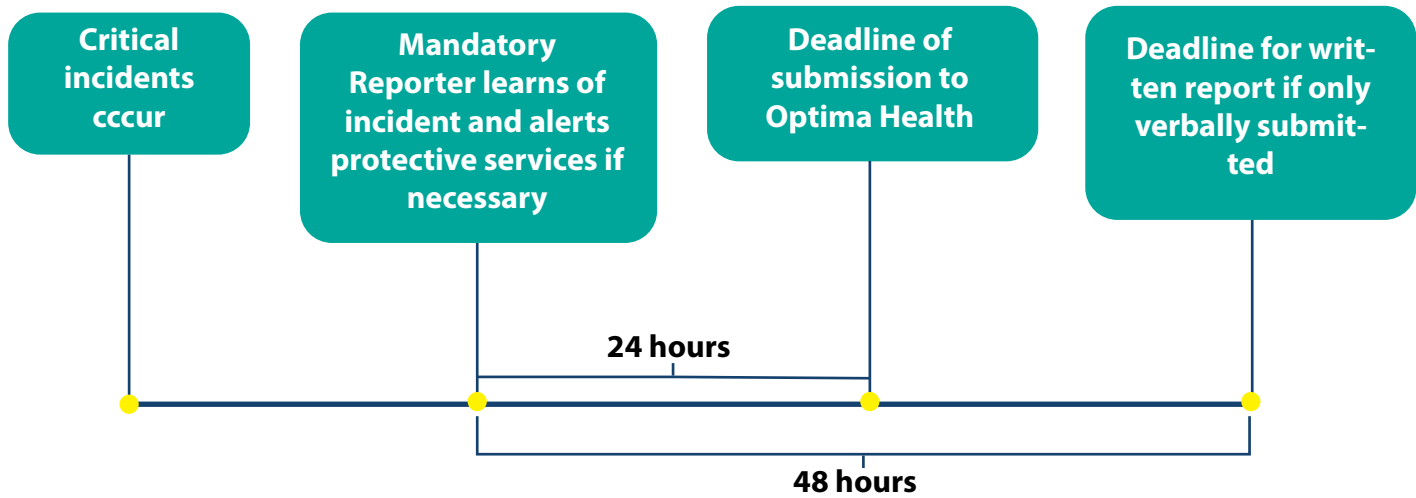
Providers are required to provide Optima Health with the following information for any suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation reported to Adult or Child Protective Services (APS or CPS):

- member name, address, and telephone number
- date of birth or age, sex, and race
- member ID or Medicaid ID
- provider name, NPI, and contact number
- nature of incident
- contact person
- name of agency notified and reference number
- date and time reported
- names and ages of other persons living with the member, including relationship
- name, address, and telephone number of suspected abuser(s), including relationship to member



Reporting Timeline

- Immediately report to appropriate protective services agency.
- Within 24 hours of knowledge of the incident, it must be reported to Optima Health.
- Within 48 hours of knowledge of the incident, you must provide written documentation. If you are reporting an incident by phone, you must report within 24 hours of knowledge.



Resources

To learn more about critical incident reporting, you may review the educational resource located on our [website](#) or click the images below.



OPTIMA HEALTH

Critical Incident Reporting

What is a Critical Incident?
A critical incident is defined as any actual, or alleged, event or situation that creates a significant risk of substantial or serious harm to the physical or mental health, safety, or well-being of a member. There are different classifications, based on category and type.

Why Should Providers Report a Critical Incident?

- ensure patient/member quality of care and safety
- avoid repeatable errors
- address areas of concern
- comply with regulatory reporting requirements

Critical Incident Categories:

- Quality of Care:** Any incident that calls into question the competence or professional conduct of a healthcare provider while providing medical services and has adversely affected, or could adversely affect, the health or welfare of a member. These are incidents of a less critical nature than those defined as sentinel events.
- Sentinel Event:** A patient safety event involving a sentinel death (not primarily related to the natural course of the patient's illness or underlying condition for which the member was being treated or monitored by a medical professional at the time of the incident) or serious physical or psychological injury, or the risk thereof.
- Other Critical Incidents:** An event or situation that creates a significant risk to the physical or mental health, safety, or well-being of a member not resulting from a quality-of-care issue and less severe than a sentinel event.

As mandated reporters, critical incidents must be reported to Optima Health within 24 hours of knowledge using one of the methods listed below. A reporting form is available on the provider website.

How to Report

- **Email:** Optima_Critical_Incidents@optimahealth.com
- **Fax:** 1-833-229-8932
- **Phone:** 757-252-8400

Critical Incident Types:

- abuse
- attempted suicide
- deviations from standards of care
- exploitation, financial, or other
- medical error
- medication discrepancy
- missing person
- neglect
- sentinel death
- serious injury
- theft
- other

OptimaHealth



1. **Billed Charge:** the actual amount charged by provider for any covered service furnished to a member.
2. **Clean Claim:** a claim that has no material defect (including any lack of required documentation).
3. **Covered Services:** those services, drugs, supplies, and equipment for which coverage benefits are available under the healthcare plans. Covered services beneficiaries are given benefits according to the terms and conditions of the health plan.
4. **Copayment:** charges for covered services collected directly by provider from member as payment, in addition to the fees paid to provider by the health plan.
5. **Deductible:** a dollar amount which a member is responsible to pay before the covered service.
6. **Electronic Health Record (EHR):** an electronic record of clinical services rendered by a participating provider to a member.
7. **Fee Schedule:** a list of the maximum amounts allowed per unit for covered services.
8. **Medically Necessary:** those covered services as provided by a participating provider which are:
 - required to identify, evaluate, or treat the member’s condition, disease, ailment, or injury—including pregnancy-related conditions
 - in accordance with recognized standards of care for the member’s condition, disease, ailment, or injury
 - appropriate regarding standards of good medical practice
 - not solely for the convenience of the member or a participating provider
 - the most appropriate supply or level of service which can be safely provided to the member
9. **Non-Covered Services:** those healthcare services that are not covered services.
10. **Provider Network:** a group of participating providers that, through a contractual relationship, supports some or all products in which members are enrolled.
11. **Quality Improvement or Utilization Management:** the processes established and operated by the health plan, or its designee, to evaluate and promote the quality and cost-effective delivery of covered services.



[Optima Health Provider Manual](#)

[DMAS Provider Manuals](#)

- [EPSDT Supplement B](#)

[MES Provider Portal](#)

Optima Health Quick Reference Resources

- [Provider support](#)
- [Clinical references](#)
- [Authorizations](#)

E-Booklets

- [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment \(EPSDT\) Provider Guide](#)
- [Model of Care](#)

