



March 23, 2015

Re: Uniform Holidays, Half-Day Billing

Dear Service Provider,

As many of you may know a federal court issued a ruling on February 13, 2015 that stated that the Uniform Holiday Schedule and the Half-Day billing requirements under Welfare and Institutions code sections 4692 and 4690.6 could not be enforced until such time as the state had obtained CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) approval. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has chosen not to appeal this ruling. (A copy of the DDS letter to the regional centers regarding this issue can be found at the following link: <http://www.dds.ca.gov/UniformHoliday/docs/March17-2015-UHS-LetterRCs.pdf>) As such, effective February 13, 2015, neither the Uniform Holiday Schedule or the Half-Day billing are in effect.

Half-Day Billings

All activity centers, adult development centers, behavior management programs and other look-alike programs who charge a daily rate will no longer be subject to section 4690.6. This change is effective February 13, 2015. This means that from February 13, 2015 programs mentioned above can bill for full days if the client attends the program for any number of hours.

Uniform Holidays

DDS has informed regional centers that it is up to each regional center to decide on the action to be taken regarding the uniform holiday schedule that was in effect prior to 2009. ACRC plans to discuss this matter with the Provider Advisory Committee (PAC), a committee that reports to the Board of Directors. The PAC will make a recommendation which the full ACRC Board of Directors will consider in regards to the uniform holiday schedule issue going forward.

However, since the PAC will not meet prior to the upcoming previously scheduled March 31, 2015 Cesar Chavez uniform holiday, ACRC is recommending the following:

- Programs that provide their own transportation or do not rely on any regional center-funded transportation services may choose to close on the holiday or remain open on the holiday.

- Programs that do not provide their own transportation may choose to close on the holiday or remain open on the holiday. However, ACRC can not guarantee that transportation services will be available that day. A list of transportation services and their availability on March 31st will be posted on Alta's website no later than Friday morning March 27th. Please go to <http://www.altaregional.org/current-service-providers-additional-information> to check the availability of transportation services for March 31, 2015.
- ACRC can only pay for transportation for those providers that are currently vendored for transportation services.
- Programs that do not provide services will not be allowed to bill for services on March 31, 2015.
- Each service provider is responsible for notifying the clients, families and care homes of their decision. Additionally, service providers shall notify ACRC at the following email address of their schedule for March 31, 2015: uniformholiday@altaregional.org . Please provide your vendor number and program name in the email.

Services provided on President's Day, Monday, February 16, 2015 may be billed if your program was open and provided services that day. Please contact your accounting billing representative to request a revised bill. Your accounting representative can be found on our website at <http://www.altaregional.org/post/who-call>

Going forward, ACRC will work with the PAC to establish a suggested uniform holiday schedule. While a uniform holiday schedule will make it easier to assure that transportation services are available when day programs desire to operate, ACRC understands that there is no legal authority to enforce a uniform holiday schedule. We invite all interested service providers to attend the next Provider Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the Brenda Smith Conference Room to be held at ACRC's main office located at 2241 Harvard Street in Sacramento.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact you community services specialist.

Sincerely,

Peter Tiedemann,
Chief Operating Officer