

THE TRUSTEE

January 2018
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

All medical and dental providers in any of the Trust networks must attest to and provide evidence of their certifications, primary specialty, state license, W-9 tax ID, and other professional credentials. Behavioral health providers may not have the same extent of professional documentation, but must register with the KTF Plan. In some claim cases, behavioral health providers have submitted requests for payment without being registered with the Trust. If we have no idea who they are, they can't be paid.

Some behavioral health procedures, like massage therapy, need to be pre-certified by an MD, and others need to be pre-certified after six (6) meetings. The pre-certification is a one-page document. Make sure your behavioral specialist is aware of their obligations. Again, there are BHS specialists who do not follow Trust provider rules. We will always reach out to them and, if they refuse, they will not be eligible to participate in the Trust plan.

EOB's

The Explanation of Benefits (EOB) will have a designation that states the amount owed by the member. This is the amount you owe the provider. You do not owe it to the Trust. Some members have, incorrectly, sent payment to the Trust.

If Medicare primary members go to a provider who does not accept Medicare and the billing does not go through Medicare, then, as per the plan rules, the Trust will only pay 35% of the charges and it will be indicated on the EOB.

CanaRX

Recently, Ontario, Canada pharmacy rules have changed wherein 17 drugs will now require the patient to see an Ontario doctor in person to order a new prescription. There are six Trust members who are affected and they will be notified. They will be able to renew their prescription through Pro Act. CanaRx is looking into other options and whether these prescriptions can be moved to other markets.

DME-Durable Medical Equipment

There are occurrences where Trust members may need crutches, walkers, commodes, shower chairs, wheelchairs, and other durable medical equipment. In some instances, the DME is not prescribed, but, still, is needed. The Trust maintains a closet of durable medical equipment that members have donated back after the device was no longer needed. These donated items are available to our members at no cost. As most items have a shelf life of usefulness before wearing out, the inventory can be depleted quickly.

If members have any used durable medical equipment in good shape, they are encouraged to donate it to the Trust closet. Contact Kathy at the Trust Office, 845-338-5422 and we'll schedule a pick up.

TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS

Tai Chi reduces stress, supports relaxation, and can increase strength, improve balance and posture, and fall prevention. The Ulster County Office for the Aging will sponsor classes on Tai Chi for arthritis at the Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main St., in Hurley Beginning Monday, January 29 from 1:15 to 2:15 pm. The classes will meet twice a week for eight weeks. Interested participants should make a commitment to attend all classes twice a week for the eight week period as the programs build and progress on each class. Space is limited and priority will be given to new participants.

RSVP is required. For additional information, such as the class days of the week and times for all classes, and to register, contact the Ulster County Office for the Aging at 845-340-3456. Partner up, grab a friend, and the schedule will take you through the rest of the winter.

LEAD POISONING

The Ulster County Department of Health is offering free services related to protecting your family from lead poisoning. Homes build before 1978 are likely to have been painted with lead based paints. Lead is a poison and is extremely harmful to children and pregnant women. Contact the Ulster County Board of Health at 845-340-3047 for information on free lead inspections, free one-day EPA lead renovator training, and free supplies to qualified owners and tenants.