MEMORANDUM

TO: QUEST Integration (QI) Health Plans
Medicaid Dental Third Party Administrator (TPA)

FROM: Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

SUBJECT: PAYMENT SUSPENSION TO PROVIDERS

The memorandum dated April 14, 2021 Memo #QI-2108 / CTR 2103 are being amended due to additional letters being issued to the individual physicians mentioned.

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify all QUEST Integration Plans that all Medicaid payments to Roger Wong (NPI: 1962407833), Lisa Wong (NPI: 1063834281), Aaron Harada (NPI: 1992110480), Chantal Botros (NPI: 1053719252), and Leon Johnson (NPI: 1518343177) have been suspended as of April 9, 2021.

The Federal regulation at 42 C.F.R. § 455.23 requires that Medicaid payments be suspended pending the investigation of a “credible allegation of fraud” against any individual or entity, unless the state determines that there is good cause not to suspend payments. At present, the Med-QUEST Division is unaware of any circumstances that constitute good cause as enumerated in such federal regulations. This suspension applies to all pending or scheduled Medicaid payments for services by the listed providers.

The QUEST Integration Plans and Dental TPA will be notified if the payment suspension may be lifted, or if the providers’ status as Medicaid providers shall be changed. Should the payment suspension be lifted, the providers would be entitled to receive any payments which were held in abeyance during the suspension period.

Should you have any questions, please contact Kurt Kresta at (808) 692-8072 or by email at kkresta@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Attachments

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY
April 23, 2021

Roger Wong, DDS
50 South Beretania Street, Suite C-117B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Wong:

Re: Notice of Suspension of Medicaid Payments

The State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD), is suspending Medicaid payments to Roger Wong (NPI: 1962407833) effective as of April 9, 2021. This suspension applies to all Medicaid payments. Federal law requires that Medicaid payments be suspended pending the investigation of a “credible allegation of fraud” against any individual or entity, unless the state determines that there is good cause not to suspend payments (42 C.F.R. § 455.23). The allegations include:

- Billing for services not rendered by a licensed dentist.
- Billing for services not rendered.
- Billing for services which were not medically necessary.
- Billing for greater compensation than that to which the person is legally entitled.

Such conduct is also grounds for sanctions under Hawaii Administrative Rules pursuant to §17-1736-33(c):

“DHS may suspend or terminate a provider from the Medicaid program for one or more of the following reasons:

(7) Any fraud against the Medicaid program or abuse of health care services as defined in this section;”
In accordance with this notice to impose a sanction, the state sanction rules allow the Department to suspend or withhold payments to a provider on pending, or subsequently received claims, pending a final disposition. In this case, the fraud allegations place all payments to you in question.

Pursuant to federal law, the suspension of payments based on a credible allegation of fraud is temporary, and will end upon the determination that there is insufficient evidence of fraud, or upon the completion of legal proceedings related to the alleged fraud (42 C.F.R. §455.23(c)(1)).

The State may also find good cause not to impose, or continue, suspension of payments, or to suspend payments only in part, pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 455.23(e)-(f). At present, the Department is unaware of any present circumstances that constitute good cause not to suspend all payments as enumerated in such federal regulations.

Pursuant to §17-1736-33, Hawaii Administrative Rules, you have the right to request an administrative hearing if you do not agree with our findings and action to suspend payment. A written request for an administrative hearing must be received in the Department of Human Services, Administrative Appeals Office (AAO), P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809, within 30 days from the date of this letter and include all documents and written evidence that you wish to be considered at the hearing.

If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Kresta, Investigator at (808) 692-8072 or by email at kkresta@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

c:  QI Health Plans  
     FO/FIS  
     HCSB  
     MFCU
April 23, 2021

Lisa Wong, DMD  
50 South Beretania Street, Suite C-117B  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Wong:

Re: Notice of Suspension of Medicaid Payments

The State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD), is suspending Medicaid payments to Lisa Wong (NPI: 1063834281) effective as of April 9, 2021. This suspension applies to all Medicaid payments. Federal law requires that Medicaid payments be suspended pending the investigation of a “credible allegation of fraud” against any individual or entity, unless the state determines that there is good cause not to suspend payments (42 C.F.R. § 455.23). The allegations include:

- Billing for services not rendered by a licensed dentist.
- Billing for services not rendered.
- Billing for services which were not medically necessary.
- Billing for greater compensation than that to which the person is legally entitled.

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If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Kresta, Investigator at (808) 692-8072 or by email at kkresta@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

c:  QI Health Plans
    FO/FIS
    HCSB
    MFCU
April 23, 2021

Aaron Harada, DMD
50 South Beretania Street, Suite C-117B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Harada:

Re: Notice of Suspension of Medicaid Payments

The State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD), is suspending Medicaid payments to Aaron Harada (NPI: 1992110480) effective as of April 9, 2021. This suspension applies to all Medicaid payments. Federal law requires that Medicaid payments be suspended pending the investigation of a “credible allegation of fraud” against any individual or entity, unless the state determines that there is good cause not to suspend payments (42 C.F.R. § 455.23). The allegations include:

- Billing for services not rendered by a licensed dentist.
- Billing for services not rendered.
- Billing for services which were not medically necessary.
- Billing for greater compensation than that to which the person is legally entitled.

Such conduct is also grounds for sanctions under Hawaii Administrative Rules pursuant to §17-1736-33(c):

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The State may also find good cause not to impose, or continue, suspension of payments, or to suspend payments only in part, pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 455.23(e)-(f). At present, the Department is unaware of any present circumstances that constitute good cause not to suspend all payments as enumerated in such federal regulations.

Pursuant to §17-1736-33, Hawaii Administrative Rules, you have the right to request an administrative hearing if you do not agree with our findings and action to suspend payment. A written request for an administrative hearing must be received in the Department of Human Services, Administrative Appeals Office (AAO), P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809, within 30 days from the date of this letter and include all documents and written evidence that you wish to be considered at the hearing.

If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Kresta, Investigator at (808) 692-8072 or by email at kkresta@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

c:  QI Health Plans
    FO/FIS
    HCSB
    MFCU
Chantal Botros, DMD  
50 South Beretania Street, Suite C-117B  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Dr. Botros:

Re: Notice of Suspension of Medicaid Payments

The State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD), is suspending Medicaid payments to Chantal Botros (NPI: 1053719252) effective as of April 9, 2021. This suspension applies to all Medicaid payments. Federal law requires that Medicaid payments be suspended pending the investigation of a “credible allegation of fraud” against any individual or entity, unless the state determines that there is good cause not to suspend payments (42 C.F.R. § 455.23). The allegations include:

- Billing for services not rendered.
- Billing for services which were not medically necessary.
- Billing for greater compensation than that to which the person is legally entitled.

Such conduct is also grounds for sanctions under Hawaii Administrative Rules pursuant to §17-1736-33(c):

“DHS may suspend or terminate a provider from the Medicaid program for one or more of the following reasons:

(7) Any fraud against the Medicaid program or abuse of health care services as defined in this section;”

In accordance with this notice to impose a sanction, the state sanction rules allow the Department to suspend or withhold payments to a provider on pending, or subsequently received claims, pending a final disposition. In this case, the fraud allegations place all payments to you in question.
Chantal Botros, DMD
Notice of Suspension of Medicaid Payments
April 23, 2021
Page 2

Pursuant to federal law, the suspension of payments based on a credible allegation of fraud is temporary, and will end upon the determination that there is insufficient evidence of fraud, or upon the completion of legal proceedings related to the alleged fraud (42 C.F.R. §455.23(c)(1)).

The State may also find good cause not to impose, or continue, suspension of payments, or to suspend payments only in part, pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 455.23(e)-(f). At present, the Department is unaware of any present circumstances that constitute good cause not to suspend all payments as enumerated in such federal regulations.

Pursuant to §17-1736-33, Hawaii Administrative Rules, you have the right to request an administrative hearing if you do not agree with our findings and action to suspend payment. A written request for an administrative hearing must be received in the Department of Human Services, Administrative Appeals Office (AAO), P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawaii 96809, within 30 days from the date of this letter and include all documents and written evidence that you wish to be considered at the hearing.

If you have questions, you may contact Kurt Kresta, Investigator at (808) 692-8072 or by email at kkresta@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

c:  QI Health Plans
    FO/FIS
    HCSB
    MFCU
April 23, 2021

Leon Johnson, DDS
1050 Queen Street, Suite 100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Re: Notice of Suspension of Medicaid Payments

The State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services, Med-QUEST Division (MQD), is suspending Medicaid payments to Leon Johnson (NPI: 1518343177) effective as of April 9, 2021. This suspension applies to all Medicaid payments. Federal law requires that Medicaid payments be suspended pending the investigation of a “credible allegation of fraud” against any individual or entity, unless the state determines that there is good cause not to suspend payments (42 C.F.R. § 455.23). The allegations include:

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- Billing for services which were not medically necessary.
- Billing for greater compensation than that to which the person is legally entitled.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AGENCY
Pursuant to federal law, the suspension of payments based on a credible allegation of fraud is
temporary, and will end upon the determination that there is insufficient evidence of fraud, or upon
the completion of legal proceedings related to the alleged fraud (42 C.F.R. §455.23(c)(1)).

The State may also find good cause not to impose, or continue, suspension of payments, or to
suspend payments only in part, pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 455.23(e)-(f). At present, the Department is
unaware of any present circumstances that constitute good cause not to suspend all payments as
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kkresta@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD
Med-QUEST Division Administrator

c:  QI Health Plans
    FO/FIS
    HCSB
    MFCU