



Commonwealth of Virginia Health Benefits Program

Additional Health Plan Change - July 1, 2010

Psychiatrist Copayment Reduced for COVA Care and COVA Connect

Mental health parity legislation passed in 2008 requires that mental health and substance abuse benefits be equivalent to medical/surgical benefits with respect to financial requirements and treatment limits.

As a result of final regulations on mental health parity, beginning July 1, 2010, COVA Care and COVA Connect health plan members will pay less for behavioral health services from a medical professional. Effective in July, the State Health Benefits Program will reduce the copayment for psychiatrists to \$25 from the current \$40 copayment. This means that plan members will pay the same \$25 amount for all behavioral health professional services, both medical and non-medical.

The copayment change will be reflected in health plan materials posted on the DHRM and plan administrator Web sites before the July 1 effective date.