

# PROVIDER Bulletin



## KERN HEALTH SYSTEMS

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October 17, 2022

### **Balance Billing**

Dear Provider,

The Plan would like to remind all providers that balance billing Kern Family Health Care members is prohibited by federal and state law. Members should not pay for physician visits or any other medical care when they receive covered services. This means members cannot be charged for co-pays, co-insurance, or deductibles.

Billing members violates Federal law as outlined in section 1902(n)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act, as modified by section 4714 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. This section of the Act is available at: [http://www.ssa.gov/OP\\_Home/ssact/title19/1902.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title19/1902.htm). Protections are also found in California Welfare and Institutions Code section 14019.4. Violation of billing practices may lead to enforcement actions, including sanctions.

If balance billing is discovered or suspected, the Plan is required to provide appropriate training to ensure compliance with state and federal laws.

KHS posts all bulletins on the KHS website, [www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com](http://www.kernfamilyhealthcare.com), choose Provider, then Bulletins.

For any questions, please contact your Provider Relations Representative at 1-800-391-2000.

Sincerely,

Melissa McGuire  
Deputy Director of Provider Network  
Kern Health Systems