



August 9, 2023

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

attorneygeneral.gov

Re:

Independence Blue Cross (“Independence”) is writing in response to your July 13, 2023, correspondence, which enclosed correspondence from Attorney Antoniadis on behalf of

Independence is in the process of removing visit limitations for “Nutrition Counseling for Weight Management” (“Nutritional Counseling”)¹ for all insured health plans in instances where the member has a mental health/substance use disorder (MH/SUD) diagnosis. These MH/SUD Nutrition Counseling visits will be provided without cost share. This change will require system updates which are anticipated to take at least a few weeks. In the interim, Independence will manually ensure that Ms. Kotler’s claims for Nutrition Counseling process correctly without limitation or cost share.

Future forms will be updated for all insured health plans to reflect that there is no limit on medically necessary Nutrition Counseling visits for MH/SUD diagnoses.

Independence is committed to compliance with all laws, including the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. Independence hopes that these changes are an acceptable resolution to Ms . complaint.

¹ Independence and Attorney Antoniadis agree that the codes at issue are CPT 97802, 97803, 97804. Independence will refer to these services as Nutritional Counseling since that it how these services are described in the Member’s Benefit Booklet.



Sincerely,

Senior Paralegal Specialist
/hlw

Cc: