Surprise/Balance Billing Disclosure Form

THE BELOW DISCLOSURE IS REQUIRED BY COLORADO LAW. HOWEVER, PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR PRACTICE IS OUT OF NETWORK WITH ALL PRIVATE INSURANCE COMPANIES, AND BECAUSE YOU ARE INTENTIONALLY CHOOSING TO RECEIVE NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES FROM AN OUT OF NETWORK PROVIDER, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT OF THE ENTIRE BILL OR MAY BE BALANCE BILLED. IF YOU INTEND TO SUBMIT INVOICES TO YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY FOR OUT-OF-NETWORK REIMBURSEMENT, BE SURE TO CHECK WITH YOUR INSURER SO YOU UNDERSTAND THE LIMITS OF SUCH COVERAGE.

Surprise Billing - Know Your Rights

Beginning January 1, 2020, Colorado state law protects you* from “surprise billing,” also known as “balance billing.” These protections apply when:

- You receive covered emergency services, other than ambulance services, from an out-of-network provider in Colorado, and/or

- You unintentionally receive covered services from an out-of-network provider at an in-network facility in Colorado.

What is surprise/balance billing, and when does it happen?

If you are seen by a health care provider or use services in a facility or agency that is not in your health insurance plan’s provider network, sometimes referred to as “out-of-network,” you may receive a bill for additional costs associated with that care. Out-of-network health care providers often bill you for the difference between what your insurer decides is the eligible charge and what the out-of-network provider bills as the total charge. This is called “surprise” or “balance” billing.

When you CANNOT be balance-billed:

Emergency Services: If you are receiving emergency services, the most you can be billed for is your plan’s in-network cost-sharing amounts, which are copayments, deductibles, and/or coinsurance. You cannot be balance-billed for any other amount. This includes both the emergency facility where you receive emergency services and any providers that see you for emergency care.

Nonemergency Services at an In-Network or Out-of-Network Health Care Provider: The health care provider must tell you if you are at an out-of-network location or at an in-network location that is using out-of-network providers. They must also tell you what types of services that you will be using may be provided by any out-of-network provider.

You have the right to request that in-network providers perform all covered medical services. However, you may have to receive medical services from an out-of-network provider if an in-network provider is not available. In this case, the most you can be billed for covered services is your in-network cost-sharing amount, which are copayments, deductibles, and/or coinsurance. These providers cannot balance bill you for additional costs.

Additional Protections

- Your insurer will pay out-of-network providers and facilities directly.
- Your insurer must count any amount you pay for emergency services or certain out-of-network services (described above) toward your in-network deductible and out-of-pocket limit.
- Your provider, facility, hospital, or agency must refund any amount you overpay within sixty days of being notified.
- No one, including a provider, hospital, or insurer can ask you to limit or give up these rights.

If you receive services from an out-of-network provider or facility or agency in any OTHER situation, you may still be balance billed, or you may be responsible for the entire bill. If you intentionally receive nonemergency services from an out-of-network provider or facility, you may also be balance billed.

If you want to file a complaint against your health care provider, you can submit an online complaint by visiting this website: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora/DPO_File_Complaint.

If you think you have received a bill for amounts other than your copayments, deductible, and/or coinsurance, please contact the billing department, or the Colorado Division of Insurance at 303-894-7490 or 1-800-930-3745.

*This law does NOT apply to ALL Colorado health plans. It only applies if you have a "CO-DOI" on your health insurance ID card. Please contact your health insurance plan at the number on your health insurance ID card or the Colorado Division of Insurance with questions.

Surprise Billing Protection Form

The purpose of this document is to let you know about your protections from unexpected medical bills. It also asks whether you would like to give up those protections and pay more for out-of-network care.

IMPORTANT: You aren't required to sign this form and shouldn't sign it if you didn't have a choice of health care provider when you received care. You can choose to get care from a provider or facility in your health plan's network, which may cost you less.

If you'd like assistance with this document, ask your provider or a patient advocate. Take a picture and/or keep a copy of this form for your records.

You're getting this notice because this provider or facility isn't in your health plan's network. This means the provider or facility doesn't have an agreement with your plan.

Getting care from this provider or facility could cost you more.

If your plan covers the item or service you're getting, federal law protects you from higher bills:

- When you get emergency care from out-of-network providers and facilities, or,

- When an out-of-network provider treats you at an in-network hospital or ambulatory surgical center without your knowledge or consent.
  Ask your health care provider or patient advocate if you need help knowing if these protections apply to you.

If you sign this form, you may pay more because:
- You are giving up your protections under the law.
- You may owe the full costs billed for items and services received.
- Your health plan might not count any of the amount you pay towards your deductible and out-of-pocket limit. Contact your health plan for more information.

You ***shouldn't*** sign this form if you ***didn't*** have a choice of providers when receiving care. For example, if a doctor was assigned to you with no opportunity to make a change. Before deciding whether to sign this form, you can contact your health plan to find an in-network provider or facility. If there isn't one, your health plan might work out an agreement with this provider or facility, or another one.

Estimate of what you could pay

Patient name:____

Out-of-network provider(s)____

Total Cost Estimate of what you may be asked to pay: _$2800 (approx. 20 sessions)

▶Review your estimate.

▶Call your health plan. Your plan may have better information about how much you will be asked to pay. You also can ask about what's covered under your plan and your provider options.

▶Questions about this notice and estimate? Call Jennifer Thorstad at 303-989-5534

▶Questions about your rights? Contact www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers or call 1-800-985-3059

Prior authorization or other care management limitations

Except in an emergency, your health plan may require prior authorization (or other limitations) for certain items and services. This means you may need your plan's approval that it will cover an item or service before you get them. If prior authorization is required, ask your health plan about what information is necessary to get coverage.

More information about your rights and protections

Visit www.cms.gov/nosurprises/consumers for more information about your rights under federal law.

By signing, I give up my federal consumer protections and agree to pay more for out-of-network care.

With my signature, I am saying that I agree to get the items or services from ***Jennifer Thorstad, LPC*** with Roads and Rivers Therapeutic Services, LLC

With my signature, I acknowledge that I am consenting of my own free will and am not being coerced or pressured. I also understand that:

- I'm giving up some consumer billing protections under federal law.
- I may get a bill for the full charges for these items and services, or have to pay out-of-network cost-sharing under my health plan.
- I was given a written notice on [_______________] explaining that my provider or facility isn't in my health plan's network, the estimated cost of services, and what I may owe if I agree to be treated by this provider or facility.
- I got the notice either on paper or electronically, consistent with my choice.
- I fully and completely understand that some or all amounts I pay might not count toward my health plan's deductible or out-of-pocket limit.
- I can end this agreement by notifying the provider or facility in writing before getting services.

IMPORTANT: You ***don't*** have to sign this form. But if you don't sign, this provider or facility might not treat you. You can choose to get care from a provider or facility in your health plan's network.

Print name of Patient____or

Print name of Guardian/authorized representative_____________________________________

Patient's Signature or Guardian/authorized representative's signature

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Take a picture and/or keep a copy of this form.
It contains important information about your rights and protections.