NEW YORK STATE | Office of the Medicaid Inspector General

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

DENNIS ROSEN
Medicaid Inspector General

January 26, 2016

[redacted]
Accredo Health Group, Inc.
3000 Ericsson Drive, Suite 100
Warrendale, Pennsylvania 15086

Final Audit Report
Audit # 15-4594
Provider ID # [redacted]

Dear [redacted]:

The New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) has reviewed Report 2014-S-15 from the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), which examined Medicaid payments made to Accredo Health Group Inc. for pharmacy services from April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014 (the "Review period"). In accordance with Section 517.5 of Title 18 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules, and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR), this notice shall serve as our final audit report of the recently completed review of payments made to Accredo Health Group, Inc. under the New York State Medicaid Program

BACKGROUND, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for the administration of the Medicaid program. As part of this responsibility, the OMIG conducts audits and reviews of various providers of Medicaid reimbursable services, equipment and supplies. These audits and reviews are directed at assessing provider compliance with applicable laws, regulations, rules and policies of the Medicaid program as set forth by the Departments of Health and Education (Titles 8, 10, and 18 of the NYCRR) and the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) Provider Manuals.

OSC is responsible for overseeing the fiscal affairs of State agencies, public authorities and local government agencies, as well as their compliance with relevant statutes and their observance of good business practices. This fiscal oversight is accomplished, in part, through audits performed pursuant to authority under Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution and Article II, Section 8 of the State Finance Law. OSC audits identify opportunities for improving operations, strategies for reducing costs, and strengthening controls.

Pharmacy policy requires that a prescription received by a Medicaid provider as a facsimile (fax) be on an Official New York State Prescription Form. It also requires the source fax number to be clearly visible on the facsimile that is received.

The purpose of this audit was to identify overpayments for pharmacy claims that were not in compliance with laws, regulations, and policies necessary for payment of the claims. The audit covers claims paid by Medicaid from April 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014.

OMIG has determined that Accredo Health Group, Inc.'s failure to comply with New York State Social Services Law and Titles 8, 10 and/or 18 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR) resulted in a total overpayment of $334,591.54.

REGULATIONS OF GENERAL APPLICATION

In addition to any specific detailed findings, rules and/or regulations which may be listed below, the following regulations pertain to all audits:

Regulations state: "By enrolling the provider agrees: (a) to prepare and to maintain contemporaneous records demonstrating its right to receive payment . . . and to keep for a period of six years from the date the care, services or supplies were furnished, all records necessary to disclose the nature and extent of services furnished and all information regarding claims for payment submitted by, or on behalf of, the provider . . . (e) to submit claims for payment only for services actually furnished and which were medically necessary or otherwise authorized under the Social Services Law when furnished and which were provided to eligible persons; (f) to submit claims on officially authorized claim forms in the manner specified by the department in conformance with the standards and procedures for claims submission; . . . (h) that the information provided in relation to any claim for payment shall be true, accurate and complete; and (i) to comply with the rules, regulations and official directives of the department." *18 NYCRR Section 504.3*

Regulations state: "Fee-for-service providers. (1) All providers ... must prepare and maintain contemporaneous records demonstrating their right to receive payment . . . All records necessary to disclose the nature and extent of services furnished and the medical necessity therefor ... must be kept by the provider for a period of six years from the date the care, services or supplies were furnished or billed, whichever is later. (2) All information regarding claims for payment submitted by or on behalf of the provider is subject to audit for a period of six years from the date the care, services or supplies were furnished or billed, whichever is later, and must be furnished, upon request, to the department ... for audit and review." *18 NYCRR Section 517.3(b)*

Regulations require that bills for medical care, services and supplies contain patient name, case number and date of service; itemization of the volume and specific types of care, services and supplies provided; the unit price and total cost of the care, services and supplies provided; and a dated certification by the provider that the care, services and supplies itemized have been in fact furnished; that the amounts listed are in fact due and owing; that such records as are necessary to disclose fully the extent of care, services and supplies provided to individuals under the New York State Medicaid program will be kept for a period of not less than six years from the date of payment; and that the provider understands that payment and satisfaction of this claim will be from Federal, State and local public funds and that he or she may be prosecuted under applicable Federal and State laws for any false claims, statements or documents, or concealment of a material fact provided.
18 NYCRR Section 540.7(a)(1)-(3) and (8)

Regulations state: "An overpayment includes any amount not authorized to be paid under the medical assistance program, whether paid as the result of inaccurate or improper cost reporting, improper claiming, unacceptable practices, fraud, abuse or mistake." *18 NYCRR Section 518.1(c)*

Regulations state: "Vendor payments for medical care and other items of medical assistance shall not be made unless such care or other items of assistance have been furnished on the basis of the appropriate authorization prescribed by the rules of the board and regulations of the department."
18 NYCRR Section 540.1

Regulations state: "The department may require repayment from the person submitting an incorrect or improper claim, or the person causing such claim to be submitted, or the person receiving payment for the claim." *18 NYCRR Section 518.3(a)*

Regulations state: "The department may require repayment for inappropriate, improper, unnecessary or excessive care, services or supplies from the person furnishing them, or the person under whose supervision they were furnished, or the person causing them to be furnished...."
18 NYCRR Section 518.3(b)

Regulations state: "Medical care, services or supplies ordered or prescribed will be considered excessive or not medically necessary unless the medical basis and specific need for them are fully and properly documented in the client's medical record." *18 NYCRR Section 518.3(b)*

AUDIT FINDINGS

The following audit findings reflect the results of our audit. This audit report incorporates consideration of any additional documentation and information presented in response to the draft audit report dated November 24, 2015. The attached Bridge Schedule indicates any changes to the findings as a result of your response.

Invalid Fax Prescription

Regulations state: "...In addition to the requirements of section sixty-eight hundred ten of the education law or article thirty-three of this chapter, all prescriptions written in this state by a person authorized by this state to issue such prescriptions shall be on serialized official New York state prescription forms provided by the department..." *NYS Public Health Law Article 2A Title 3 Section 281*

Regulations state that by enrolling the provider agrees to comply with the rules, regulations and official directives of the department. *18 NYCRR Section 504.3(i)*

Regulations state: "Written order or fiscal order are terms which are used interchangeably in this section and refer to any original, signed written order of a practitioner including any faxed transmitted order which requests a pharmacy to provide a drug to a medical assistance recipient. All written orders and fiscal orders shall comply with the provisions of Section 21 of the Public Health Law and regulations promulgated thereunder or contained in this section including but not limited to requirements for prescribing brand necessary drugs." *18 NYCRR Section 505.3(a)(7)*

Regulations state: "Drugs may be obtained only upon the written order of a practitioner, except for telephone and electronic orders for drugs filled in compliance with this section and 10 NYCRR Part 910." *18 NYCRR Section 505.3(b)(1)*

Medicaid policy states: "... A faxed order must originate from a secure and unblocked fax number. The source fax number must be clearly visible on the fax that is received. A faxed order must include the physician stamp **and** signature. Each faxed prescription or fiscal order may include only one (1) drug. Lists of drugs are not acceptable as faxed orders. Drugs ordered from a nursing home are exempt from this requirement. All orders received by the pharmacy as a fax must be on the Official New York State Prescription Form."

NYS Medicaid Program Pharmacy Manual Policy Guidelines Version 2013-1, Section II

In 7 instances pertaining to 2 patients, the fax prescription was invalid. For 7 of the instances, the fax prescription was not on an Official New York State Prescription Form. This resulted in an overpayment of $334,591.54 (Exhibit 1).

PROVIDER RIGHTS

In accordance with 18 NYCRR Part 518 which regulates the collection of overpayments, your repayment options are described below. If you decide to repay the total overpayment amount of $334,591.54, one of the following repayment options must be selected within 20 days from the date of this letter:

OPTION #1: Make full payment by check or money order within 20 days of the date of the final audit report. The check should be made payable to the New York State Department of Health and be sent with the attached Remittance Advice to:

New York State Department of Health
Medicaid Financial Management
GNARESP Corning Tower, Room 2739
File #15-4594
Albany, New York 12237

OPTION #2: Enter into a repayment agreement with the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General. If your repayment terms exceed 90 days from the date of the final audit report, recoveries of amounts due are subject to interest charges at the prime rate plus 2%. If the process of establishing the repayment agreement exceeds 20 days from the date of the final audit report, the OMIG will impose a 50% withhold after 20 days until the agreement is established. OMIG acceptance of the repayment agreement is based on your repaying the Medicaid overpayment as agreed. The OMIG will adjust the rate of recovery, or require payment in full, if your unpaid balance is not being repaid as agreed. In addition, if you receive an adjustment in your favor while you owe funds to the State, such adjustment will be applied against any amount owed. If you wish to enter into a repayment agreement, please contact the Bureau of Collections Management within 20 days at the following:

Bureau of Collections Management
New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General
800 North Pearl Street
Albany, New York 12204

If you choose not to settle this audit through repayment of the total overpayment, you have the right to challenge these findings by requesting an administrative hearing where the OMIG would seek and defend the total overpayment of $334,591.54. As allowed by state regulations, you must make your request for a hearing, in writing, within sixty (60) days of the date of this report to:

General Counsel
Office of Counsel
New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General
800 North Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12204

Questions regarding the request for a hearing should be directed to Office of Counsel, at .

Issues you may raise shall be limited to those issues relating to determinations contained in the final audit report. Your hearing request may not address issues regarding the methodology used to determine the rate, or any issue that was raised at a proceeding to appeal a rate determination.

At the hearing you have the right to:

a) be represented by an attorney or other representative, or to represent yourself;
b) present witnesses and written and/or oral evidence to explain why the action taken is wrong; and
c) cross examine witnesses of the Department of Health and/or the OMIG.

The OMIG reserves the right to conduct further reviews of your participation in the Medicaid Program, take action where appropriate, and recover monies owed through the initiation of a civil lawsuit or other legal mechanisms including but not limited to the recovery of state tax refunds pursuant to Section 206 of the Public Health Law and Section 171-f of the State Tax Law.

If the Provider has any questions or comments concerning this final audit report, please contact me at Please refer to report number 15-4594 in all correspondence.

Thank you for the cooperation and courtesy extended to our staff during this audit.

Sincerely

Division of Medicaid Audit, Albany Office
Office of the Medicaid Inspector General

CERTIFIED MAIL #
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL
REMITTANCE ADVICE

[redacted]
Accredo Health Group, Inc.
3000 Ericsson Drive, Suite 100
Warrendale, Pennsylvania 15086

AMOUNT DUE: $334,591.54

PROVIDER ID #[redacted]

AUDIT #15-4594

AUDIT TYPE	[X] PROVIDER
	[ ] RATE
	[ ] PART B
	[ ] OTHER:

CHECKLIST

1. To ensure proper credit, please enclose this form with your check.
2. Make checks payable to: *New York State Department of Health*
3. Record the Audit Number on your check.
4. Mail check to:

[redacted]
New York State Department of Health
Medicaid Financial Management, B.A.M.
GNARESP Corning Tower, Room 2739
File #15-4594
Albany, New York 12237-0048

Thank you for your cooperation.

EXHIBIT 1

FINAL DISPOSITION FOR SAMPLED SELECTIONS CHANGED FROM DRAFT TO FINAL AUDIT REPORT

ACCREDO HEALTH GROUP, INC.

OSC AUDIT #2014-S-15 OMIG AUDT #15-4594 PROVIDER #[redacted]

AUDT PERIOD 04/01/2014-09/30/2014

BRIDGE SCHEDULE

TCN	Date of Service	Finding	Draft Report Amount Disallowed	Final Report Amount Disallowed	Change
[redacted]	3/6/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$49,025.38	$49,025.38	$0.00
	7/9/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$63,002.49	$0.00	$63,002.49
	4/7/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$47,594.36	$47,594.36	$0.00
	4/21/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$47,594.36	$47,594.36	$0.00
	5/8/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$47,594.36	$47,594.36	$0.00
	5/22/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$47,594.36	$47,594.36	$0.00
	6/9/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$47,594.36	$47,594.36	$0.00
	6/23/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$47,594.36	$47,594.36	$0.00
	8/13/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$31,503.00	$0.00	$31,503.00
	7/16/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$31,503.00	$0.00	$31,503.00
	6/27/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$31,503.00	$0.00	$31,503.00
	9/4/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$31,500.00	$0.00	$31,500.00
	9/30/2014	Invalid Fax Prescription	$31,500.00	$0.00	$31,500.00
		Total	**$555,103.03**	**$334,591.54**	**$220,511.49**