



PROVIDER ALERT

WITS & ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD USE

September 10, 2015

Dear Network Provider:

Optum Idaho and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare are teaming up to clarify the expectations related to the use of WITS and/or an EMR/EHR of your choosing as a participating network provider.

Idaho WITS is an open-source, web-based clinical and administrative system utilized by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Idaho Department of Correction, Idaho Department of Juvenile Correction, Idaho Supreme Court, and Substance Use Disorder Services Provider Agencies. This system is designed to meet the growing needs of capturing client treatment data and satisfying mandatory government reporting requirements for the planning, administration, and monitoring of certain Behavioral Health Treatment Programs. The system supports meaningful use electronic health record care coordination, and provides a full claims adjudication system.

Who is required to use WITS?

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Behavioral Health, Idaho WITS Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) Provider Agency Agreement defines a Substance Use Disorder Services Provider Agency as "a treatment or recovery support services provider who has been approved by the Department under IDAPA 16.07.20 "Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders Treatment and Recovery Support Services Facilities and Programs." A SUDS Network Provider is defined as "a treatment or recovery support services provider who has been approved by the Department and is contracted with the Department's Management Services Contactor (BPA)." All SUDS Network Providers (as previously defined) are required to utilize WITS for IDHW-, IDOC-, IDJC-, and ISC-funded Substance Use Disorder clients. SUDS Network Providers may choose, at their own discretion, to utilize WITS as their EHR for private pay clients or Optum Medicaid clients (including accessing the GAIN ABS website through WITS to conduct a GAIN Assessment). Use of the WITS system is further defined in the [WITS Provider Agency Agreement](#). Additional information about WITS requirements can be found at www.wits.idaho.gov.

Any Optum Medicaid Provider who is not a SUDS Network Provider as defined above may contract directly with Chestnut Health Services to have access directly to GAIN ABS (to conduct GAIN Assessments). Contact the [GAIN Project Coordination Team](#) (309-451-7900) for information on contracting with Chestnut Health Services.

Optum encourages providers to learn more about modernizing their behavioral health practice through technology and the use of Electronic Medical Record solutions. Information on preferred vendors, offering discount on programs can be viewed by visiting www.ProviderExpress.com. Additionally, OptumBank offers low-interest loans for a variety of purposes, which may be of interest for those considering this type of practice modernization. Information on OptumBank and a link to the loan application can also be found on www.ProviderExpress.com.

Best regards,

Optum Idaho and
The Department of Health and Welfare