



North Sound BH-ASO

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North Sound BH-ASO Memorandum 2026-05

DATE: September 8, 2026

TO: North Sound BH-ASO Provider

FROM: North Sound BH-ASO Contracts

RE: Clarification of Fee for Service Budget Thresholds and Service Submission Dates

Dear North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) Providers,

North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (North Sound BH-ASO) is providing this memorandum to clarify the administration of the Fee for Service (FFS) budget thresholds communicated to providers effective July 1, 2026.

As previously communicated, North Sound BH-ASO has established budget thresholds for FFS services based on an analysis of prior fiscal year expenditures, utilization trends, and available funding. Providers are expected to monitor expenditures and utilization to ensure services remain within their allocated budget.

This memorandum provides additional clarification regarding how FFS services will be applied to the applicable budget period.

Effective Date

Effective October 1, 2026, all FFS payments will be applied to the budget period based on the date the service is submitted to North Sound BH-ASO for payment, rather than the date on which the service was provided.

The service submission date will determine the budget period against which the payment is applied.

Application of Service Submission Date

Beginning October 1, 2026, a service will be charged against the FFS budget period in which the service is submitted for payment.

For example:

- A service is provided on **June 18, 2026**.
- The service is submitted to North Sound BH-ASO for payment on **September 15, 2026**.
- Because the service was submitted prior to October 1, 2026, it will not be charged against the July 1–December 31, 2026 budget period based on this clarification.

Conversely:

- A service is provided on **June 18, 2026**.
- The service is submitted to North Sound BH-ASO for payment on **October 2, 2026**.
- Because the service was submitted on October 2, 2026, the payment will be applied to the provider's **July 1–December 31, 2026** FFS budget.

September Submission Opportunity

This approach allows providers to submit services provided prior to July 1, 2026 during the month of September without those services being applied against the current July 1–December 31, 2026 budget cycle.

Providers are encouraged to review outstanding FFS services and submit eligible services in accordance with applicable submission and billing requirements.

Other Requirements Remain in Effect

This clarification does not change other fiscal, billing, encounter, authorization, or reporting requirements applicable to FFS services.

All other requirements outlined in **North Sound BH-ASO policy**, the **Supplemental Provider Service Guide (SPSG)**, applicable contract provisions, and other established billing and reporting requirements remain in effect.

Providers remain responsible for timely and accurate submission of services and for monitoring their FFS utilization and expenditures.

Questions and Provider Support

North Sound BH-ASO recognizes that the administration of FFS budget thresholds represents a change in how providers monitor and manage FFS funding. We are committed to working collaboratively with providers to ensure the requirements are clearly understood and consistently applied.

Providers who have questions regarding this clarification or would like to discuss how it applies to their organization are welcome to request a meeting with North Sound BH-ASO. We are available to meet individually with providers to address questions or concerns. Please contact Lisa Hudspeth, North Sound BH-ASO Provider Relations & Contracts Manager, to arrange a mutually convenient time (lisa_hudspeth@nsbhaso.org).

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to providing services to individuals and families throughout the North Sound region.

Cc: North Sound BH-ASO Contracts; North Sound BH-ASO Staff