







# HEADWINDS & TAILWINDS FOR MENTAL HEALTH & OTHER ANCILLARY PROVIDERS IN 2023

Mental Health Providers	<b>Tailwinds</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing demand for behavioral health care and a growing focus on mental health parity</li> <li>Lack of regulation of residential wilderness programs</li> <li>Newly authorized Medicare coverage for services rendered by marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors [CAA23]</li> <li>Upcoming 50% Medicare payment increases for crisis psychotherapy services furnished in mobile units and other specific settings starting in 2024 [CAA23]</li> <li>Elimination of the requirement for a “X-waiver” prior to prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder [CAA23]</li> </ul>	<b>Headwinds</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational difficulties of integrating with the traditional health care system</li> <li>Inadequate reimbursement for residential treatment centers due to the lack of codes that sufficiently distinguish between behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse treatment</li> </ul>
Ambulance Providers	<b>Tailwinds</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension of several ground ambulance service payment add-ons through CY 2024, including a 3% increase for trips originating in rural areas, a 2% increase in urban areas, and a “super rural” add-on of 22.6% in the “lowest population density” areas [CAA23]</li> </ul>	<b>Headwinds</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upcoming policy recommendations expected from the Ground Ambulance and Patient Billing Advisory Committee, which will address balance billing by ground ambulances as part of the No Surprises Act</li> </ul>
Telehealth Providers	<b>Tailwinds</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-year extension of COVID-related Medicare telehealth flexibilities to allow audio-only communications, geographic, originating site, and many other flexibilities to continue [CAA23]</li> <li>2-year extension to continue allowing individuals with healthcare coverage under a Health Savings Account-eligible High Deductible Health Plan to access telehealth services without first satisfying their deductible [CAA23]</li> </ul>	<b>Headwinds</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Termination and expiration of state-level telehealth COVID-related flexibilities by professional boards, state insurance agencies, and Medicaid agencies</li> <li>Increasingly aggressive enforcement against telehealth providers on the federal and state level, particularly with regards to prescribing</li> <li>Rapidly evolving state-level restrictions on reproductive health services delivered through telehealth due to the <i>Dobbs</i> decision</li> </ul>



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