Total substance abuse spending on a PMPY allowed amount increased more quickly, rising 24.8% between 2014 and 2015, than mental health service spending, which increased 5.5% during the same time period.

Substance Abuse Spending Accounted for a Large Percentage of the Cost Increase

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The Increase in Substance Abuse Spending Was Due to Both Outpatient and Inpatient Services

Services for substance abuse outpatient treatment (non-office) increased 22% between 2014 and 2015, compared to a 4.1% increase in mental health outpatient treatment.

Inpatient substance abuse days per 1,000 admissions increased by 13% while mental health inpatient days per 1,000 covered members increased 4.1%.