

	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE	
	SUBJECT Medication Management Visit	BY  Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H. Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs
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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue procedure codes for an outpatient psychiatric clinic or outpatient drug and alcohol clinic to receive reimbursement for the medical management of the medication regime of a Medical Assistance (M A) recipient during a course of prescribed treatment in the clinic.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all outpatient psychiatric clinic and outpatient drug and alcohol clinics enrolled in the M A Program and Managed Care Organizations under contract with the Department.

BACKGROUND:

M A currently reimburses an outpatient psychiatric clinic for a psychiatric clinic medication visit, and an outpatient drug and alcohol clinic for a chemotherapy clinic visit and opiate detoxification clinic visit. These visits require the provider to administer the medication and evaluate the patient's mental and physical condition while on the prescribed medication.

Ongoing Departmental review of psychiatric clinics and outpatient drug and alcohol clinics revealed violations in applying the requirements that govern psychiatric clinic medication visit, chemotherapy clinic visit and opiate detoxification visit.

The current M A definition for psychiatric clinic medication visit, chemotherapy clinic visit and opiate detoxification visit require a minimum 15-minute visit only for the administration of a drug and evaluation of a patient's physical and mental condition and do not include provisions for visits for the purpose of ordering or adjusting medication regimes through written or verbal prescriptions. Although the definitions may not reflect current practice, providers may not bill for services not included in the definition. The billing for one of the above referenced visits when medication is not administered to the patient is a violation of M A regulations at Chapters 1153 and 1223.

DISCUSSION:

To recognize current practice, the Department is adding procedure codes to reflect medication management (i.e. writing of a prescription for a prescribed medication and evaluation of the patient while on the prescribed medication). The definition of a Medication Management Visit is as follows:

For outpatient psychiatric clinics:

Medication Management Visit - A brief medical management visit of 10-20 minutes performed by a psychiatrist or physician working under the auspices of an outpatient psychiatric clinic. The purpose of this visit is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of psychotropic medications used in the treatment of mental illness and emotional disturbance and may include a change/adjustment or writing of a prescription and the provision of supportive psychotherapy and medication education. This visit is limited to a maximum of four visits per month and may not be used in conjunction with a psychiatric clinic medication visit.

NOTE: This does not preclude a medically necessary methadone maintenance clinic visit, opiate detoxification visit, chemotherapy visit or drug-free clinic visit for dually diagnosed individuals in a licensed drug and alcohol clinic.

For outpatient drug and alcohol clinics:

Medication Management Visit - A brief medical management visit of 10-20 minutes performed by a psychiatrist or physician working under the auspices of an outpatient drug and alcohol clinic. The purpose of this visit is to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of drug prescriptions used in the treatment of drug and alcohol abuse or dependence and may include a change/adjustment or writing of a prescription and the provision of supportive psychotherapy and medication education. This visit is limited to a maximum of four visits per month and may not be used in conjunction with a methadone maintenance clinic visit, opiate detoxification visit, chemotherapy visit or drug-free clinic visit.

NOTE: This does not preclude a medically necessary psychiatric clinic medication visit for dually diagnosed individuals in a licensed outpatient psychiatric clinic.

PROCEDURE:

Effective with dates of service on or after August 1, 1998, the Department is adding new procedure codes to its fee schedule for outpatient psychiatric clinics and outpatient drug and alcohol clinics for medication management visits. Providers must document in the patient's record, the clock time spent providing the service (i.e. 8:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.)

For outpatient psychiatric clinics:

Type of Service	Procedure Code	Terminology	Fee
70	W9970	Medication Management Visit	\$20.00

For outpatient drug and alcohol clinics:

Type of Service	Procedure Code	Terminology	Fee
AF	W9971	Medication Management Visit	\$20.00

In certain circumstances, the Department realizes that there may be a medical need for a recipient to receive more than four visits per month. If the recipient medically requires more than four visits per month, the practitioner may request a program exception for the additional visits. The practitioner must describe in detail the medical need for the additional visits and the provider must clearly document the medical need in the patient's record.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Claims that meet the criteria outlined in this Bulletin, with the dates of service exceeding the 180 day time limits, must be submitted through the Claims Exception Unit at P.O. Box 8044, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105. The Department must receive the provider's 180-day exception request within 60 days of the issuance of this bulletin.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Bureau of Policy, Budget and Planning
P.O. Box 8043
Harrisburg, PA 17105
orCall: 1-800-537-8861

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.