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Administrative Bulletin 20-16

101 CMR 346.00: Rates for Certain Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders Programs

Effective April 16, 2020

Rate Update Applicable to Certain Opioid Treatment Program Services During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency

Purpose, Scope, and Effective Period

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is issuing this bulletin pursuant to the authority of COVID-19 Order No. 20: *Order Authorizing the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to Adjust Essential Provider Rates During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency* and Executive Order 591: *Declaration of State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19*. In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to COVID-19, EOHHS, which administers the Massachusetts Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) known as "MassHealth," is establishing increased rates for certain MassHealth-covered Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) services established in 101 CMR 346.00: *Rates for Certain Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders Programs* and as further described in this bulletin. If a rate is not being updated pursuant to this bulletin, the rate remains at the currently established rate.

This administrative bulletin is effective for dates of service from April 1, 2020, through July 31, 2020.

Disclaimer: This administrative bulletin is not authorization for a provider's use of the updated rate or service. Authorization for the provision of, and billing and payment for, OTP services are pursuant to the applicable MassHealth programmatic requirements.

Background

Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) are outpatient programs that deliver crucial opioid treatment services by providing monitored administering and dispensing of FDA approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, as well as counseling services. As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, EOHHS recognizes there are concerns about the costs to OTP providers in continuing to provide OTP services to MassHealth members.



These concerns include the potential for increased staffing costs, equipment and other costs, including costs associated with the increased distribution of permitted take-home methadone doses and costs associated with the expansion of delivery of services via telehealth to support access in the communities the OTP providers serve, and other concerns resulting from the COVID-19 emergency. EOHHS seeks to promote continued delivery of these critical services to MassHealth members through providing additional financial support to OTPs for these additional costs and concerns. Accordingly, EOHHS is establishing updated rates as described below.

Updated Rates for Certain OTP Services to Address Concerns Related to COVID-19

To support OTP providers during the COVID-19 emergency, for dates of service from April 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020, EOHHS will increase rates for certain MassHealth-covered OTP services by 10% above current rates. The following fee schedule identifies the services and new rates:

Code	Modifier	Rate	Unit	Service Description
H0020		\$11.85	dose only visit	Alcohol and/or drug services; methadone administration and/or service (provision of the drug by a licensed program) (dose only visit)
H0004	TF	\$21.33	per 15 minutes	Behavioral health counseling and therapy, per 15 minutes (opioid individual counseling, intermediate level of care, four units max per day).
H0005	HQ	\$18.52	per 45 minutes	Alcohol and/or drug services; group counseling by a clinician (group setting) (per 45 minutes, opioid group counseling, one unit maximum per day)
H0005	HF	\$37.05	per 90 minutes	Alcohol and/or drug services; group counseling by a clinician (per 90-minute unit) (one unit maximum per day)
T1006	HR	\$42.37	per 30 minutes	Alcohol and/or substance abuse services, family/couple counseling (opioid family/couples counseling, per 30 minutes, one unit max per day)
T1006	HG	\$84.74	per 60 minutes	Alcohol and/or substance abuse services, family/couple counseling (family/couple with client present) (opioid family/couples counseling, per 60 minutes, one unit maximum per day)

Public Comment

EOHHS will accept comments on the rate established via this administrative bulletin through April 30, 2020. Individuals may submit written comments by emailing: ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit written comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with the name of this bulletin in the subject line. All submissions of comments must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by email may mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 6th Fl, 100 Hancock St, Quincy, MA 02171.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of this bulletin taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.