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SUBJECT:

Updates to Procedure Codes for Intensive Behavioral Health Services Agencies

BY:

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SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program who render intensive behavioral health services (IBHS) in the MA fee-for-service delivery system to children, youth and young adults under 21 years of age. Providers rendering services in the MA managed care delivery system should address any coding or billing questions to the appropriate behavioral health managed care organization.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers of changes to the Procedure Codes announced in OMHSAS-20-01, Procedure Codes for Intensive Behavioral Health Agencies.

BACKGROUND:

On October 19, 2019, the Department of Human Services (Department) promulgated 55 Pa Code Chapters 1155 and 5240, which codified the minimum standards for licensing and MA payment conditions for agencies that deliver IBHS to children, youth and young adults under 21 years of age with mental, emotional and behavioral health needs. The regulations replaced the requirements for Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services (BHRS) previously set forth in bulletins issued by the Department. IBHS includes individual services, applied behavior analysis (ABA) services, group services, and evidence-based therapy delivered through individual services, ABA services or group services.

On January 31, 2020, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) issued OMHSAS-20-01, which announced the Procedure Codes for IBHS that are on the MA Program Fee Schedule. OMHSAS has determined that there is a need to update the information in OMHSAS-20-01.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services, P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105 E-Mail: RA-PWIBHS@pa.gov

PROCEDURE:

A description of the Procedure Codes that are updated on the attachment to this bulletin is included below. The regulations in 55 Pa Code Chapters 1155 and 5240 outline the requirements to provide each IBHS.

Assessment and Evaluation for Initiation of IBHS

The Procedure Codes for assessment and evaluation have been updated to reflect that IBHS agencies can use this Procedure Code for a mental health assessment of need for services for individual services, ABA services and group services. The provider specialties 591 and 592 were added to Procedure Codes H0031 and 90791.

Group Services

Procedure Code H2021 with an informational modifier (HQ) will continue to be used for non-ABA group services. Different pricing modifiers are to be used to reflect whether groups have two to eight members (U6), nine to twelve members (U5) or thirteen to twenty members (U4). Procedure Code H2021(U6) had previously included in its description that the group size was four to eight group members. It has since been updated to reflect that it should be used for groups of two to eight group members.

In addition, Procedure Codes 97154(U6) and 97158(U6) had previously included in their descriptions that the group size was up to three group members. These Procedure Codes have been updated to reflect that they should be used for groups of two to three group members.

Place of service 12 was also removed from Procedure Code H2021, because group services cannot be provided in a home.

ABA Services

The procedure code definitions for codes 97151, 97155 and 97156 with pricing modifier U7 have been updated to reflect that an individual who is certified as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and is providing Behavior Consultation-ABA services may utilize the U7 modifier.

Place of Service

IBHS are home and community-based services and there is an expectation that IBHS will be delivered in the child's, youth's or young adult's natural environment, such as their home, school or during community activities. As explained in OMHSAS-21-02, Provision of One-to-One Intensive Behavioral Health Services in a Licensed Location, OMHSAS also recognizes that there may be instances when it may be clinically appropriate to provide one-to-one medically necessary individual services or ABA services at a provider's licensed location. If one-to-one individual services or ABA services are provided at a provider's location consistent with OMHSAS-21-02, providers should use place of service code 11. This place of service code is being added to the MA Program Fee Schedule for individual services and ABA services to enable OMHSAS to identify services that were provided at the provider's location.

In addition, if group services are provided at a provider's location, providers should use place of service code 11, which has also been added to the MA Program Fee Schedule for group services. Group services can be provided at a provider's location if it is community like. A community like setting is a setting that simulates a natural and normal setting for a child, youth or young adult.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Updated Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) Agency Procedure Codes