Physician Related Services

Provided by:

Physicians, Mid-Level Practitioners, Podiatrists, Laboratories, Imaging Facilities, Independent Diagnostic Testing Facilities, and Public Health Clinics

Medicaid and Other Medical Assistance Programs

MONTANA
Department of Public Health & Human Services

March 2005

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My Medicaid Provider ID Number:

My CHIP Provider ID Number:

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- For clients who have become retroactively eligible for Medicaid, the physician must certify in writing that the surgery was performed for medical reasons and must document one of the following:
    - The individual was informed prior to the hysterectomy that the operation would render the client permanently incapable of reproducing.
    - The reason for the hysterectomy was a life-threatening emergency.
    - The client was already sterile at the time of the hysterectomy and the reason for prior sterility.

  When submitting claims for retroactively eligible clients, attach a copy of the FA-455 (Eligibility determination letter) to the claim if the date of service is more than 12 months earlier than the date the claim is submitted.

Surgical services

- The fee schedule shows Medicaid policies code by code on global periods, bilateral procedures, assistants at surgery, co-surgeons, and team surgery. These policies are almost always identical to Medicare policies but in cases of discrepancy the Medicaid policy applies.
- Medicaid only covers "assistant at surgery" services when provided by physicians or mid-level practitioners who are Medicaid providers.
- Medicaid does not cover surgical technician services.
- See the *Billing Procedures* chapter regarding the appropriate use of modifiers for surgical services.

Telemedicine services

- Medicaid covers telemedicine services when the consulting provider is enrolled in Medicaid.
- The requesting provider need not be enrolled in Medicaid nor be present during the telemedicine consult.
- Medicaid does not cover network use charges.

Transplants

All Medicaid transplant services must be prior authorized (see the *PASSPORT and Prior Authorization* chapter in this manual). Medicaid covers the following transplant services:

- For clients 21 years or older: only bone marrow, kidney, or cornea transplants.
- For clients less than 21 years old: all transplants that are covered by Medicare that are not considered experimental or investigational.

Weight reduction

- Physicians and mid-level practitioners who counsel and monitor clients on weight reduction programs can be paid for those services. If medical necessity is documented, Medicaid will also cover lab work. Similar services provided by nutritionists are not covered for adults.
- Medicaid does **not** cover the following weight reduction services:
  - Weight reduction plans or programs (e.g., Jenny Craig, Weight Watchers, etc.)
  - Nutritional supplements
  - Dietary supplements
  - Health club memberships
  - Educational services of a nutritionist
  - Gastric bypass

Emergency department visits

The Department covers emergency services provided in the emergency department. Emergency medical services are those services required to treat and stabilize an emergency medical condition. Beginning August 1, 2003, a service is reimbursed as an emergency if one of the following criteria is met:

- The service is billed with a CPT code of 99284 or 99285
- The client has a qualifying emergency diagnosis code. A list of the Department's pre-approved emergency diagnosis codes is available on the Provider Information website under *Emergency Diagnosis Codes* (see *Key Contacts*).

- The service did not meet one of the previous two requirements, but the medical professional rendering the medical screening and evaluation believes an emergency existed. In this case, the claim and documentation supporting the emergent nature of the services must be mailed to the emergency department review contractor (see *Key Contacts*).

If the visit does not meet one of the emergency criteria, then services beyond the screening and related diagnostic tests are not reimbursed and cost sharing should be collected. If the visit meets the emergency criteria, cost sharing is not collectible.

If an inpatient hospitalization is recommended as post stabilization treatment, the hospital must get a referral from the client's PASSPORT provider. If the hospital attempts to contact the PASSPORT provider and does not receive a response within 60 minutes, authorization is assumed. To be paid for these services, documentation that clearly shows the time of the attempt to reach the PASSPORT provider and the time of the initiation of post stabilization treatment must be sent to the PASSPORT program officer (see *Key Contacts*) for review. The documentation must include the time an attempt was made to reach the provider and the time the inpatient hospitalization began. There must be a 60 minute time lapse between these two events.

Other Programs

This is how the information in this chapter applies to Department programs other than Medicaid.

Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP)

Clients who are enrolled in MHSP have limited coverage for physician-related services. See the *Mental Health Services Plan* manual.

For Medicaid clients seeking mental health services, the information in this chapter applies to mental health services just as it does for physical health services.

Reference lab billing

Under federal regulations, all lab services must be billed to Medicaid by the lab that performed the service. Modifier 90, used to indicate reference lab services, is not covered by Medicaid.

Sterilization

- For elective sterilizations, a completed *Informed Consent to Sterilization* (MA-38) form must be attached to the claim for each provider involved or payment will be denied. This form must be legible, complete, and accurate, and revisions are not accepted. It is the provider's responsibility to obtain a copy of the form from the primary or attending physician.
- For medically necessary sterilizations (including hysterectomies, oophorectomies, salpingectomies, and orchiectomies), one of the following must be attached to the claim, or payment will be denied:
    - A completed *Medicaid Hysterectomy Acknowledgement* form (MA- 39) for each provider submitting a claim. See *Appendix A Forms*. It is the provider's responsibility to obtain a copy of the form from the primary or attending physician. Complete only one section (A, B, or C) of this form. When no prior sterility (section B) or life-threatening emergency (section C) exists, the client and physician must sign and date Section A of this form prior to the procedure (see 42 CFR 441.250 for the federal policy on hysterectomies and sterilizations). Also, for section A, signatures dated after the surgery date require manual review of medical records by the Department. The Department must verify that the client (and representative, if any) was informed orally and in writing, prior to the surgery, that the procedure would render the client permanently incapable of reproducing. The client does not need to sign this form when sections B or C are used. Please refer to *Appendix A* for more detailed instructions on completing the form.
    - For clients who have become retroactively eligible for Medicaid, the physician must certify in writing that the surgery was performed for medical reasons and must document one of the following:
        - The individual was informed prior to the hysterectomy that the operation would render the client permanently incapable of reproducing.
        - The reason for the hysterectomy was a life-threatening emergency.
        - The client was already sterile at the time of the hysterectomy and the reason for prior sterility.

When submitting claims for retroactively eligible clients, attach a copy of the FA-455 (Eligibility determination letter) to the claim if the date of service is more than 12 months earlier than the date the claim is submitted. For more information on sterilizations, see the *Covered Services* chapter in this manual.

Surgical services

- Medicaid does not provide additional payment for the "operating room" in a physician's office. Medicaid pays facility expenses only to licensed hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.
- ***Reporting surgical services:*** Certain surgical procedures must not be reported together, such as:
  - Procedures that are mutually exclusive based on the CPT-4 code description or standard medical practice.
  - When both comprehensive and component procedures are performed, only the comprehensive procedure must be billed.
  - When the CPT-4 manual describes several procedures of increasing complexity, only the code describing the most extensive procedure performed must be reported.

  Medicaid edits for some surgical services using Medicare's Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits and performs post-payment review on others. See *Coding Resources* earlier in this chapter for more information on CCI.
- ***Assistant at surgery***
  - When billing for an assistant at surgery, refer to the current Medicaid Department fee schedule to see if an assist is allowed for that procedure.
  - If an assistant at surgery does not use the appropriate modifier, then either the assistant's claim or the surgeon's claim (whichever is received later) will be denied as a duplicate service.
  - Physicians must bill assistant at surgery services using the appropriate surgical procedure code and modifier 80, 81, or 82.
  - Mid-level practitioners must bill assistant at surgery services under their own provider number using the appropriate surgical procedure code and modifier AS, 80, 81, or 82.
- ***Global surgery periods:*** Global surgery periods are time spans assigned to surgery codes. During these time spans, services related to the surgery may **not** be billed. Group practice members that are of the same specialty must bill Medicaid as if a single practitioner provided all related follow-up services for a client. For example, Dr. Armstrong performs orthopedic surgery on a client. The client comes in for a follow-up exam, and Dr. Armstrong is on vacation. Dr. Armstrong's partner, Dr. Black, performs the follow-up. Dr. Black cannot bill this service to Medicaid, because the

service was covered in the global period when Dr. Armstrong billed for the surgery.

  - For major surgeries, this span is 90 days and includes the day prior to the surgery and the following services: post-operative surgery related care and pain management and surgically-related supplies and miscellaneous services.
  - For minor surgeries and endoscopies, the spans are either one day or ten days. They include any surgically-related follow-up care and supplies on the day of surgery, and for a 10-day period after the surgery.
- For a list of global surgery periods by procedure code, please see the current Department fee schedule for your provider type.
- If the CPT-4 manual lists a procedure as including the surgical procedure only (i.e., a "starred" procedure) but Medicaid lists the code with a global period, the Medicaid global period applies. Almost all Medicaid fees are based on Medicare relative value units (RVUs), and the Medicare relative value units were set using global periods even for starred procedures. Montana Medicaid has accepted these RVUs as the basis for its fee schedule.
- In some cases, a physician (or the physician's partner of the same specialty in the same group practice) provides care within a global period that is unrelated to the surgical procedure. In these circumstances, the unrelated service must be billed with the appropriate modifier to indicate it was not related to the surgery.

Telemedicine services

- When performing a telemedicine consult, use the appropriate CPT-4 evaluation and management (E&M) consult code.
- The place of service is the location of the provider providing the telemedicine service.
- Medicaid does not pay for network use or other infrastructure charges.

Transplants

Include the prior authorization number on the claim (field 23 on the CMS-1500 claim form). See the *Completing a Claim* chapter in this manual. All providers must have their own prior authorization number for the services. For details on obtaining prior authorization, see the *PASSPORT and Prior Authorization* chapter in this manual.

Weight reduction

Providers who counsel and monitor clients on weight reduction programs must bill Medicaid using appropriate evaluation and management (E&M) codes.

Submitting Electronic Claims

Professional and institutional claims submitted electronically are referred to as ANSI ASC X12N 837 transactions. Providers who submit claims electronically experience fewer errors and quicker payment. Claims may be submitted electronically by the following methods:

- ***ACS field software WINASAP 2003.*** ACS makes available this free software, which providers can use to create and submit claims to Montana Medicaid, MHSP, and CHIP (dental and eyeglasses only). It does not support submissions to Medicare or other payers. This software creates an 837 transaction, but does not accept an 835 (electronic RA) transaction back from the Department. The software can be downloaded directly from the ACS EDI Gateway website. For more information on WINASAP 2003, visit the ACS EDI Gateway website, or call the number listed in the *Key Contacts* section of this manual.
- ***ACS clearinghouse.*** Providers can send claims to the ACS clearinghouse (ACS EDI Gateway) in X12 837 format using a dial-up connection. Electronic submitters are required to certify their 837 transactions as HIPAA-compliant before sending their transactions through the ACS clearinghouse. EDIFECS certifies the 837 HIPAA transactions at no cost to the provider. EDIFECS certification is completed through ACS EDI Gateway. For more information on using the ACS clearinghouse, contact ACS EDI Gateway (see *Key Contacts*).
- ***Clearinghouse.*** Providers can contract with a clearinghouse so that the provider can send the claim to the clearinghouse in whatever format the clearinghouse accepts. The provider's clearinghouse then sends the claim to the ACS clearinghouse in the X12 837 format. The provider's clearinghouse also needs to have their 837 transactions certified through EDIFECS before submitting claims to the ACS clearinghouse. EDIFECS certification is completed through ACS EDI Gateway.

Providers should be familiar with the *Implementation Guides* that describe federal rules and regulations and provide instructions on preparing electronic transactions. These guides are available from the Washington Publishing Company (see *Key Contacts*). *Companion Guides* are used in conjunction with *Implementation Guides* and provide Montana-specific information for sending and receiving electronic transactions. They are available on the ACS EDI Gateway website (see *Key Contacts*).

Billing Electronically with Paper Attachments

When submitting claims that require additional supporting documentation, the *Attachment Control Number* field must be populated with an identifier. Identifier formats can be designed by software vendors or clearinghouses, but the preferred method is the provider's Medicaid ID number followed by the client's ID number and the date of service, each separated by a dash:

9999999	-	888888888	-	11182003
Medicaid Provider ID		Client ID Number		Date of Service (mmddyyyy)

The supporting documentation must be submitted with a paperwork attachment coversheet (located on the Provider Information website and in *Appendix A: Forms*). The number in the paper *Attachment Control Number* field must match the number on the cover sheet. For more information on attachment control numbers and submitting electronic claims, see the *Companion Guides* located on the ACS EDI website (see *Key Contacts*).

Submitting Paper Claims

For instructions on completing a paper claim, see the *Completing a Claim* chapter in this manual. Unless otherwise stated, all paper claims must be mailed to:

Claims Processing
P.O. Box 8000
Helena, MT 59604

Claim Inquiries

Contact Provider Relations for questions regarding client eligibility, payments, denials, general claim questions, or to request billing instructions, manuals, or fee schedules (see *Key Contacts*).

If you prefer to communicate with Provider Relations in writing, use the *Montana Medicaid Claim Inquiry* form in *Appendix A*. Complete the top portion of the form with the provider's name and address. If you are including a copy of the claim, complete side A; if a copy of the claim is not included, complete side B.

Provider Relations will respond to the inquiry within 7 to 10 days. The response will include the status of the claim: paid (date paid), denied (date denied), or in process. Denied claims will include an explanation of the denial and steps to follow for payment (if the claim is payable).

The Most Common Billing Errors and How to Avoid Them

Paper claims are often returned to the provider before they can be processed, and many other claims (both paper and electronic) are denied. To avoid unnecessary returns and denials, double check each claim to confirm the following items are included and accurate.

Common Billing Errors

Reasons for Return or Denial	How to Prevent Returned or Denied Claims
Medicaid provider number missing or invalid	The provider number is a 7-digit number assigned to the provider during Medicaid enrollment. Verify the correct **Medicaid** provider number is on the claim.
Authorized signature missing	Each claim must have an authorized signature belonging to the provider, billing clerk, or office personnel. The signature may be typed, stamped, or hand-written.
Signature date missing	Each claim must have a signature date.
Incorrect claim form used	The claim must be the correct form for the provider type. Services covered in this manual require a CMS-1500 claim form (or electronic Professional claim).
Information on claim form not legible	Information on the claim form must be legible. Use dark ink and center the information in the field. Information must not be obscured by lines.
Recipient number not on file, or recipient was not eligible on date of service	Before providing services to the client: • View the client's eligibility information at each visit. Medicaid eligibility may change monthly. • Verify client eligibility by using one of the methods described in the *Client Eligibility and Responsibilities* chapter of the *General Information For Providers* manual.
Duplicate claim	• Please check all remittance advices (RAs) for previously submitted claims before resubmitting. • When making changes to previously paid claims, submit an adjustment form rather than a new claim (see *Remittance Advices and Adjustments* in this manual). • Please allow 45 days for the Medicare/Medicaid Part B crossover claim to appear on the RA before submitting the claim directly to Medicaid.
Procedure requires PASSPORT provider approval – No PASSPORT approval number on claim	A PASSPORT provider approval number must be on the claim when such approval is required. See the *PASSPORT and Prior Authorization* chapter in this manual.
Prior authorization number is missing	• Prior authorization (PA) is required for certain services, and the PA number must be on the claim (see the *PASSPORT and Prior Authorization* chapter in this manual). • Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP) claims must be billed and services performed during the prior authorization span. The claim will be denied if it is not billed according to the spans on the authorization. See the *Mental Health Services Plan* manual.

Common Billing Errors (continued)	
Reasons for Return or Denial	**How to Prevent Returned or Denied Claims**
TPL on file and no credit amount on claim	• If the client has any other insurance (or Medicare), bill the other carrier before Medicaid. See *Coordination of Benefits* in this manual. • If the client's TPL coverage has changed, providers must notify the TPL unit (see *Key Contacts*) before submitting a claim.
Claim past 365-day filing limit	• The Claims Processing Unit must receive all clean claims and adjustments within the timely filing limits described in this chapter. • To ensure timely processing, claims and adjustments must be mailed to Claims Processing at the address shown in *Key Contacts*.
Missing Medicare EOMB	All Medicare crossover claims must have an Explanation of Medicare Benefits (EOMB) included.
Provider is not eligible during dates of services, or provider number terminated	• Out-of-state providers must update enrollment early to avoid denials. If enrollment has lapsed, claims submitted with a date of service after the expiration date will be denied until the provider updates his or her enrollment. • New providers cannot bill for services provided before Medicaid enrollment begins. • If a provider is terminated from the Medicaid program, claims submitted with a date of service after the termination date will be denied.
Type of service/procedure is not allowed for provider type	• Provider is not allowed to perform the service, or type of service is invalid. • Verify the procedure code is correct using current HCPCS and CPT-4 billing manual. • Check the Medicaid fee schedule to verify the procedure code is valid for your provider type.

Other Programs

These billing procedures also apply to the Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP). These billing procedures do not apply to the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP). The CHIP Medical Manual is available through BlueCross BlueShield at (800) 447-7828 X8647.

Instructions for Completing the *Medicaid Hysterectomy Acknowledgment* Form (MA-39)

Complete only one section (A, B, or C) of this form. The client does not need to sign this form when sections B or C are used. This form may be used as a substitute for the *Informed Consent to Sterilization* form for sterilization procedures where the client is already sterile, and for sterilization procedures (i.e. salpingo-oophorectomy, orchiectomy, etc.) done only for medical reasons. In these cases, replace the word "hysterectomy" with the appropriate procedure name.

A. Recipient Acknowledgment Statement

This section is used to document that the client received information about the hysterectomy (or other sterilization-causing procedure such as salpingo-oophorectomy or orchiectomy) before it was performed. The client and the physician must complete this portion of the form together (with an interpreter if applicable) prior to the procedure. Do **not** use this section for cases of prior sterility or life-threatening emergency.

1. The client or representative must sign and date the form prior to the procedure.
2. Enter the client's name.
3. The physician must sign and date the form prior to the procedure.
4. If interpreter services are used, the interpreter must sign and date the form prior to the procedure.

B. Statement of Prior Sterility

Complete this section if the client was already sterile at the time of the hysterectomy or other sterilization causing procedure (e.g., salpingo-oophorectomy or orchiectomy).

1. Enter the client's name.
2. Explain the cause of the client's sterility (e.g., post menopausal, post hysterectomy, etc.).
3. The physician must sign and date this portion of the form.

C. Statement of Life Threatening Emergency

Complete this section in cases where the *Medicaid Hysterectomy Acknowledgment* could not be completed prior to the surgery because of a life threatening emergency.

1. Enter the client's name.
2. Explain the nature of the life-threatening emergency.
3. The physician must sign and date this portion of the form.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

MOUNTAIN-PACIFIC QUALITY HEALTH FOUNDATION

Request for Drug Prior Authorization

Submitter: ☐ Physician ☐ Pharmacy

Please Type or Print

PATIENT NAME (Last) (First) (Initial)		PATIENT MEDICAID I.D. NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH		
			MONTH	DAY	YEAR
PHYSICIAN PROVIDER #	PHYSICIAN PHONE #	DATES COVERED BY THIS REQUEST			
		FROM		TO	
PHYSICIAN NAME		MONTH / DAY / YEAR		MONTH / DAY / YEAR	
PHYSICIAN STREET ADDRESS		**MAIL, FAX OR PHONE COMPLETED FORM TO:**			
PHYSICIAN CITY STATE ZIP		**DRUG PRIOR AUTHORIZATION UNIT** **MOUNTAIN-PACIFIC QUALITY HEALTH** **3404 COONEY DRIVE** **HELENA, MT 59602**			
PHARMACY PROVIDER NO.	PHARMACY PHONE #				
PHARMACY NAME		**(406) 443-6002 or 1-800-395-7961 (PHONE)** **(406) 443-7014 or 1-800-294-1350 (FAX)**			
PHARMACY STREET ADDRESS					
PHARMACY CITY STATE ZIP					

DRUG TO BE AUTHORIZED

DRUG NAME	STRENGTH	DIRECTIONS

DIAGNOSIS OR CONDITION TREATED BY THIS DRUG

LEAVE BLANK - PA UNIT USE ONLY

REASON FOR DENIAL OF DRUG PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

IMPORTANT NOTE: In evaluating requests for prior authorization, the consultant will consider the drug from the standpoint of published criteria only. If the approval of the request is granted, this does not indicate that the recipient continues to be eligible for Medicaid. It is the responsibility of the provider of service to establish by inspection of the recipient's Medicaid eligibility card and if necessary, by contact with Consultec to determine if the recipient continues to be eligible for Medicaid.

CURRENT RECIPIENT ELIGIBILITY MAY BE VERIFIED BY CALLING CONSULTEC AT 1-800-624-3958 or 406-442-1837.

APPROVAL OR DENIAL STATUS	DENIAL CODE	THERAPEUTIC CLASS	AUTH ID	DATE OF REQUEST	PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER

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