



PROVIDER ALERT

Alert # 1-2003-05-16-A

MA Provider Type 41 – Psychologist Fee Schedule

During the implementation of the revised HealthChoices Allegheny Fee Schedule, dated 2/1/03, Community Care was required to make changes to the Outpatient Therapy service codes previously offered to MA Provider Type 41 Psychologists. This change was required due to changes in the allowable service codes assigned to this provider type by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS).

Prior to this change, Psychologists were assigned to a series of service codes for outpatient visits for the evaluation and management of members (99203, 99204, 99205, 99213, 99214, 99215); **these codes were eliminated by OMHSAS.**

In Community Care's efforts to establish a service code structure that would allow our contracted psychologists to continue to offer outpatient therapy services, a new code was established to replace the previous series. Unfortunately, only one service code was entered onto the fee schedule (W9801 PD; 30-minute units). As you are aware, providers are not permitted to do round up billing under medical assistance. Therefore, the current code would only allow a 30-minute reimbursement for any member visit that is less than one hour in length. Community Care has received provider feedback on the financial impact that the exclusion of a 15-minute service code would create.

Effective retrospectively to the 2/1/03 HealthChoices Allegheny Fee Schedule date, Community Care has established a 15-minute service code unit for psychologists who provide outpatient therapy services. The "revised" service code structure for an MA Provider Type 41 Psychologist is:

W9801 PD – 30 minute units at a reimbursement rate of \$ 41.25 per unit
W0148 PD – 15 minute units at a reimbursement rate of \$ 20.60 per unit

The newly developed W0148 PD service code may only be billed by providers after they have billed the initial 30-minute outpatient service code (W9801 PD) for individual or family therapy.

Please let this Provider Alert serve as your notice of the HealthChoices Allegheny Fee Schedule revision.

For Claims Inquiries, please contact the Claims Department at 1-888-251-2224.

For Provider Relations assistance, please contact your PR Representative at 1-888-251-2224.

Thank you.

