

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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PHYSICIAN FEE UPDATES

- **PHYSICIAN PROGRAM FEE UPDATE**

Reflective of national trends, Missouri is experiencing very significant revenue shortages for state FY2010. In light of the state constitutional requirement to maintain a balanced budget, the administration has done an extensive review of options for program spending reductions, with an emphasis on effectively preserving participant eligibility, services, and access to those services, even while caseload growth is increasing.

Physician reimbursement for the majority of MO HealthNet services is benchmarked when possible to a Medicare rate. Upon exhaustive review of all physician program Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, a relatively small number of codes were found to be reimbursed at greater than 90% of the rate that Medicare reimburses. Given the need to balance maintenance of access to services, and in particular primary care services, and the requirement to actively implement measures to balance the budget for state FY2010, effective January 1, 2010 CPT and HCPCS codes reimbursed at greater than 90% of the Medicare fee schedule will be reduced to no greater than 90% of the Medicare fee schedule.

Provider types potentially affected by this change include Advanced Practice Nurses, Anesthesiologists, Anesthesiologist Assistants, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), Certified Nurse Midwives, Physicians, Podiatrists, Psychologists, and Laboratory and Radiology providers,.

We anticipate release of the updated fee schedule during the week of January 11, 2010. The fee schedule is located on the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/>.

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

MO HealthNet Managed Care: The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the red MO HealthNet card or by calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-635-8908 and using Option One for the red or white card.

Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896