

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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PHYSICIAN PRIMARY CARE RATE INCREASE FOR CERTAIN SERVICES

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PHYSICIAN PRIMARY CARE RATE INCREASE FOR CERTAIN SERVICES

Federal Law requires state Medicaid agencies to increase payments to certain physician specialties for primary care Evaluation and Management (E/M) Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes 99201-99499 and services related to immunization administration for vaccines and toxoids Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 90465, 90466, 90467, 90468, 90471, 90472, 904723, 90474, or their successor codes.

The MO HealthNet Division's (MHD) reimbursement rates for the identified services will be the lower of the provider's usual and customary charges to the general public or MHD's allowable amount based upon the Medicare Part B rates using the Graphical Price Cost Index (GPIC) for metropolitan St. Louis, MO.

The increased payment applies to services paid through both fee for service and managed care. Please contact the Managed Care health plan you are contracted with for information regarding their payment requirements.

Missouri's state fiscal year 2013 budget recommended by the governor and supported by both the House and Senate versions of the appropriations bill contains authority of \$50.7 million for MO HealthNet to implement this federal funded rate increase for physicians for primary care E/M codes and services related to certain immunization and administration for vaccines and toxoids beginning January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

These services must be covered by MHD on the date of service in order to be reimbursed.

ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS

The rate increases apply to primary care services provided by physicians with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine. Sub-specialists within the specialty designations of family medicine, general internal medicine, and pediatric medicine as recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties may also be eligible for increased payment.

To be eligible:

1. The provider must be board certified in the above listed specialties; or
2. If not board certified, at least sixty percent (60%) of the services billed by the physician for calendar year 2012 must be for primary care E/M codes 99201-99499 or their successor codes and vaccine administration codes 90465, 90466, 90467, 90468, 90471, 90472, 90473, 90474. MHD claims data will be reviewed to ensure the sixty percent (60%) threshold is met.
3. For newly enrolled non-board certified physicians, claims data from calendar year 2013 will be reviewed retrospectively to ensure eligibility criteria are met before continuing the rate increase for 2014. If the retrospective review indicates that eligibility criteria described in #2 above has not been met, the increased payments made during 2013 will be recouped.
4. If the condition of eligibility to receive the payment rate increase is not met, the payment will no longer be made.

PROVIDER ENROLLMENT

Providers who are currently enrolled in MO HealthNet, have a provider participation agreement on file with the Missouri Medicaid Audit & Compliance (MMAC) Unit, Provider Enrollment Section, and can attest they meet the eligibility requirements for the primary care rate increase must complete the Primary Care Physicians' Certification & Attestation application. The application is found on the MMAC website at <http://mmac.mo.gov/providers/provider-enrollment/provider-enrollment-forms/> by clicking on "Primary Care Physicians Rate Certification-Attestation". Providers will need to complete the form and submit it to the address or fax number listed. The applications will be verified and validated by MMAC Provider Enrollment Section.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MHD will provide further details regarding the Primary Care Rate Increase in another provider bulletin later this calendar year, prior to the implementation date of January 1, 2013.

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, and
- 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