

State communication

A message from Louisiana Department of Health

Changes to Billing for Substance Use Disorder Intensive Outpatient Program Treatment (ASAM 2.1)

Effective August 8, 2022, H0015 Substance Use Disorder Intensive Outpatient treatment ASAM 2.1 (SUD IOP) may not be billed for more than one unit per day. The change is being made so that the description and use of the code aligns with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) description. Once the description and billing guidance is updated, providers will bill the code correctly and National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) editing will not be an issue. The Specialized Behavioral Health Services (SBHS) fee schedule has been updated to reflect a **per diem rate** for SUD IOP group services.

Additional allowable services are to be billed using appropriate Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and HCPCS codes, located on the SBHS fee schedule which is available at [Medicaid Provider Resources](#). Please note the following parameters for the appropriate provision and billing of SUD IOP:

1. Adult IOP group must consist of a minimum of 3 hours per day, for a minimum of 3 days per calendar week (9 contact hours) and a maximum of 5 days per calendar week.
2. Youth IOP group must consist of a minimum of 3 hours per day, for a minimum of 2 days per calendar week (6 contact hours) and a maximum of 5 days per calendar week.
3. For both youth and adults receiving SUD IOP, a minimum of 1 session of individual therapy must be provided within each 30-day service period, with a maximum of 4 sessions per 30-day service period.
4. The maximum number of SUD IOP treatment hours for adolescents and adults is 19 hours per week.

The Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Manual will be updated to reflect the above requirements for the provision of the SUD IOP service. Monitor Medicaid Provider Resources for updated versions of the SBHS fee schedule and provider manual.

Healthy Blue will adjust our claims processing systems to properly adjudicate behavioral health claims for the applicable H0015 code, Substance Use Disorder, by January 7, 2022.

For **dates of service on or after August 8, 2022**, MCEs shall **recycle any claims** that were not paid in accordance with these changes **within 15 days** of implementing the system changes.

In the event that August 8, 2022, was not the date on which the MCE lifted the bypass of the edit that would prevent payment of a claim for H0015 for more than one unit of service, claims do not have to be recycled/recouped by the MCE or resubmitted by the provider for adjudication. Only claims that were impacted by the elimination of the bypass, resulting in either a denial or a downward adjustment in payment for only one unit at the previous rate of \$12.00 for Masters and Bachelors level or \$8.00 for less than Bachelors, should be readjudicated based on the current per diem logic. The intent of this correspondence is to ensure that providers experience no lapse in appropriate payment of H0015 at a rate that equates to three hours of group SUD IOP service.

Questions regarding managed care claims processing, billing guidance and prior authorization should be directed to the appropriate MCE. Questions regarding this Informational Bulletin may be sent to Cindy Casarez at Cindy.Casarez2@la.gov.