



MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Substance Use Disorder Program Transmittal No. 25 April 22, 2019

TO: Substance Use Disorder programs: Intensive Outpatient Programs/Partial Hospitalization Programs

From: Jill Spector, Director *Jill Spector*
Medical Benefits Management

RE: Payment for Presumptive and Definitive Urine Drug Testing

NOTE: **Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organization are informed of the contents of this transmittal**

Maryland Department of Health, Medicaid, is issuing a change in reimbursement for Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP) and Partial Hospitalization Programs (PHP) for Substance Use Disorder (SUD). This change will align the reimbursement policy for SUD programs with other program rates to include costs for urine drug testing (UDT) in the overall rate for IOP and PHP services. The cost of the drug testing will be included as part of the overall service for ongoing treatment of individual and will no longer be separately reimbursed by Medicaid. This policy will be effective 30 days from the date of this transmittal.

In 2017, MDH reviewed the reimbursement rates for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) and determined that the weekly administrative rate was inclusive of UDT. Separately, in 2017 when MDH set the reimbursement rates for the Adult Residential SUD programs, the cost of routine (randomized) UDT was established as included in the per diem rate. Medicaid has continued to review the use of UDT in determining patient compliance with SUD treatment. UDT is an invaluable tool when used according to American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) guidance, but it is also a tool that is ripe for over utilization and over billing. After reviewing how SUD programs effectively use UDT in their treatment protocols, we have determined that the cost of presumptive and definitive drug screens is part of the overall rate for IOP and PHP programs.

SUD IOP counseling has a per diem rate of \$134.60 per day, billable 4 days per week for services hours of 9 or more per week (6 or more for adolescents). SUD PHP counseling has a per diem rate of \$139.98, billable up to 7 days for service hours of 20 or more per week.

In comparison, the rate for OTP, for the administration of medication assisted treatment and corresponding UDT, is \$66.51 weekly. IOP, PHP and OTP programs require routine, randomized UDT, but the OTP weekly rate which includes UDT is lower than the other SUD bundled services provided by IOP and PHP programs.

This update mirrors the other program-based rates for OTPs and Adult Residential Services all of which have the lab costs included in their rates. Unlike single patient doctor visits, or those for a single counseling visit, program-based rates include the ancillary costs in supporting the overall management of individuals needing IOP or PHP level of care.

IOP and PHP programs have 30 days from the date of this transmittal to engage in agreements or contracts with laboratories to provide UDT during which time the Department will continue to reimburse for medically necessary UDT. After 30 days, claims submitted by providers and by laboratories for their patients in their IOP or in their PHP will deny.

Please be advised that the Medicaid Program only covers services that are medically necessary in accordance with COMAR 10.09.09.04A. Therefore, testing solely for the purpose of determining compliance with a court order, probation, or for housing rules only is **not** a covered service.

For questions regarding this transmittal, contact the Medicaid Behavioral Health Unit at mdh.mabehavioralhealth@maryland.gov.