



New York State Department of Health New York Early Intervention System (NYEIS) Electronic Mailing List

Use of Procedure Codes in NYEIS

Dear Colleague:

The following information is being provided in response to numerous calls and e-mails the Bureau of Early Intervention has recently received regarding CPT/HCPSCS. Please share this information with all of your early intervention staff.

HCPSCS Background Information

Each year, in the United States, health care insurers process over 5 billion claims for payment. For Medicare and other health insurance programs, to ensure that these claims are processed in an orderly and consistent manner, standardized coding systems are essential. The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPSCS) Level II Code Set is one of the standard code sets used for this purpose. The HCPSCS is divided into two principal subsystems, referred to as Level I and Level II of the HCPSCS. Level I of the HCPSCS is comprised of CPT (Current Procedural Terminology), a numeric coding system maintained by the American Medical Association (AMA). The CPT is a uniform coding system consisting of descriptive terms and identifying codes that are used primarily to identify medical services and procedures furnished by physicians and other health care professionals. These health care professionals use the CPT to identify services and procedures for which they bill public or private health insurance programs. Decisions regarding the addition, deletion, or revision of CPT codes are made by the AMA. The CPT codes are republished and updated annually by the AMA. Level I of the HCPSCS, the CPT codes, does not include codes needed to separately report medical items or services that are regularly billed by suppliers other than physicians.

Level II of the HCPSCS is a standardized coding system that is used primarily to identify products, supplies, and services not included in the CPT codes, such as ambulance services and durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) when used outside a physician's office. Because Medicare and other insurers cover a variety of services, supplies, and equipment that are not identified by CPT codes, the Level II HCPSCS codes were established for submitting claims for these items. The development and use of Level II of the HCPSCS began in the 1980's. Level II codes are also referred to as alpha-numeric codes because they consist of a single alphabetical letter followed by 4 numeric digits, while CPT codes are identified using 5 numeric digits.

The Bureau of Early Intervention has received inquiries from Municipalities and Providers regarding a special educators ability to utilize procedure codes. In New York State, all early intervention services, including services provided by special educators, are included in the State Medicaid Plan. The Early Intervention Program (EIP) adheres to Medicaid standards for billing and documentation. Medicaid is enforcing a requirement for Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)/Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes to be provided on claims for all services. The Bureau of Early Intervention has reviewed these codes with the Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP) and Medicaid. OHIP and Medicaid agree that there is no concern or restriction with special educators or other non-healthcare professionals from utilizing HCPCS codes for Early Intervention service claiming.

In NYEIS, HCPCS/CPT codes must be provided for services and supplemental evaluations performed by special educators, as well as for family training, parent-child group, and group developmental intervention that are delivered by a special educator. A HCPCS/CPT code must also be provided for vision services delivered by qualified personnel. This guidance can be used to help providers identify appropriate codes for these services. It is strongly recommended that this guidance regarding HCPCS codes be utilized to identify an appropriate code for billing special instruction services as well.

Providers should follow the same procedures for supplying HCPCS/CPT codes with billing whether the service is billed through NYEIS or KIDS. A HCPCS/CPT code or codes should be provided for each service visit. The code(s) should be appropriate for the ICD associated with the child.

A good resource for exploring HCPCS/CPT codes is the AMA website at:
<http://commerce.ama-assn.org/store/> which contains information regarding coding, as well as a search feature that you can use to look up both Level I and Level II HCPCS codes. At the webpage provided above, look for the option that reads CPT Code/Relative Value Search. You will be able to search by code or by keyword.

The following HCPCS codes have recently been added to NYEIS and may be appropriate for special instruction or other non-healthcare professional services:

- G0176 - Activity therapy (such as play, etc.) for care and treatment of patient's disabling mental health problems, per session (45 minutes or more)
- G0177 - Training and education services related to care and treatment of patient's disabling mental health providers per session (45 minutes or more)
- G0451 - Development testing, with interpretation and report, per standardized instrument form
- H0004 - Behavioral health counseling and therapy, per 15 minutes
- H2000 - Comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation
- H2014 - Skills training and development, per 15 minutes

H2027 - Psychoeducational service, per 15 minutes

H2037 - Developmental delay prevention activities, dependent child of client, per 15 minutes

S9445 - Patient education, not otherwise classified, non-physician provider, individual, per session

V2799 - Vision service, miscellaneous

T1016 - Case Management, each 15 minutes

T1017 - Targeted Case Management, each 15 minutes

Also, additional HCPCS Codes have been added that were previously unavailable in NYEIS (including S9131- Physical therapy; in the home, per diem). Should providers find that the most appropriate and current code identifying the service provided is not available in the drop-down menu in NYEIS, a request can be made to the NYEIS helpdesk to have the code added. The NYEIS helpdesk can be reached at (518) 640-8390 or NYEIS@cma.com. Please understand that HCPCS/CPT codes that are added into NYEIS does not mean that the Bureau of Early Intervention has endorsed or approved the procedure code for use. The person who delivers the service is responsible for providing an accurate and appropriate code.

Thank You

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