



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

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TO: Independent Clinics, Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses –**For Action**
Managed Care Organizations – **For Information Only**

SUBJECT: Billing for Office Based Addictions Treatment (OBAT) and Navigator Services

EFFECTIVE: For claims processed on or after November 1, 2020

PURPOSE: The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) is preparing to limit payments for OBAT physician services to those provider groups with a navigator enrolled with NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid as a member of the group practice. Physician and Advance Practice Nurse (APN) group practices with an enrolled navigator will receive enhanced payments for intake and treatment planning (90792HF), as well as for Evaluation and Management (E/M) services associated with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). In addition, medical groups with an enrolled navigator shall be eligible to receive NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid reimbursement for services provided by the navigator.

OBAT is open to all specialties and can be provided by any privately practicing physician or APN group that includes an approved navigator as a member of the group practice. OBAT is NOT limited to primary care providers (PCPs).

BACKGROUND: Increasing private group practice provider participation in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment offers an opportunity to improve access and to expand integration of care within the NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid Program. The majority of NJ FamilyCare beneficiaries are covered by a NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) and receive their medical care through contracted provider practices. Until recently, many providers have not participated in the treatment of substance use-related disorders (beyond referrals) because of perceived barriers to providing treatment, a perceived lack of reimbursement and/or a lack of experience/knowledge in treating these conditions. NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid has designed the OBAT program to support providers by increasing rates, removing prior authorization requirements and by offering clinical education and support.

Prior authorization for prescriptions used to treat SUD has been eliminated for all generic and MCO formulary MAT products.

ACTION: Effective for claims processed on or after November 1, 2020, providers must include a navigator enrolled as a member of their group practice to be able to bill as an OBAT practice. As reported in Newsletter Vol. 29 No.18, OBAT practices shall be eligible to bill:

- 90792HF for the intake and assessment, evaluation and planning for an individual requiring MAT at the enhanced rate of \$438.17.
- follow-up substance use-related office visits with the appropriate E/M procedure codes using the HF modifier (99201HF-99205HF or 99211HF-99215HF). These codes shall be reimbursed at approximately 100% of the Medicare rate.
- a “navigator” psychosocial assessment and establishment of a patient- specific treatment plan (H0006HFHG) at the rate of \$152.00
- ongoing navigator services, billed weekly, at the rate of \$76 (H0006HFSU) for up to six (6) weeks and then monthly at the rate of \$76 (H0006HF) for as long as identified issues remain unresolved. **E&M codes can be billed concurrently.**

“Navigator” services, an essential component of OBAT, are designed to reimburse provider practices for addressing the patient’s psychosocial concerns and coordination of care. Navigator services are considered necessary to ensure successful treatment outcomes, especially for those with more complex needs. While the navigators work within the providers’ practices, they are encouraged to work with individuals outside of the providers’ clinical interactions to address any non-medical factors related to SUD. If a patient refuses navigator services and only wants MAT, the physician or APN may still receive the enhanced E/M rate. Navigator services need only be available.

Recognizing that navigator services are new to most privately practicing group practices, the State is providing periodic, full day training sessions at no cost. Providers interested in having their groups’ Navigator receive training may contact the Office of Behavioral Health at 609-631-4641 for more information.

Currently, any Fee-for-Service (FFS) physician or APN may bill for the provision of MAT services with an E/M code using an HF modifier. Those that wish to provide MAT services without an enrolled navigator will continue to receive traditional reimbursement. Effective for claims processed on or after November 1, 2020, only certified OBAT providers, those group practices who have completed the **OBAT Navigator Provider Addendum** to add a navigator to their group practice may receive the enhanced rate for OBAT services. Individual providers may bill for MAT services, but will only receive the base rate for the E/M service provided.

Those providers who wish to add a navigator to their practice can find the OBAT Navigator Provider Addendum on www.njmmis.com in the drop-down list of provider applications under “Provider Enrollment Applications”

Navigator role and qualifications

Navigators are responsible for working with the patient to establish an individualized treatment plan that addresses non-medical factors that have an impact on SUD treatment. This may include connecting patients with social service organizations, recovery supports, family education or referrals to alternate levels of care as required. The navigator and provider then work together to ensure that all of the patient's SUD needs are being addressed and to fully provide integrated care.

Navigators are required, at a minimum, to be a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) with 4 years of experience dealing with individuals with SUD. Providers may utilize Navigators for other office services in addition to their SUD requirements.

Since research has shown that patients have better outcomes with counseling in addition to MAT, the navigator is responsible for establishing relationships with community counselors and programs and to assist their patients in arranging for and keeping appointments on an as needed basis. Additionally, when providers have complex cases or situations, navigators may coordinate referrals for consultative services at clinics or centers of excellence that may offer additional clinical experience.

If there are any questions regarding the information listed in this Newsletter, please contact The Office of Customer Service at 609-631-4641.

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