



Connecticut Medical Assistance Program
Policy Transmittal 2016-13

Provider Bulletin 2016-26
June 2016

Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner

Effective Date: July 1, 2016

Contact: William Halsey @ 860-424-5077

TO: Home Health Agencies

RE: Home Health Medication Administration Reimbursement Reduction

The purpose of this policy transmittal is to notify Home Health agencies of the reduction of the fees for medication administration by 15 percent. This reduction is necessary to improve the economy and efficiency of reimbursement for this service while ensuring access and quality of services, and to implement the state budget for state fiscal years 2016 and 2017 that was approved by the General Assembly. The Department of Social Services (DSS) is implementing this change to medication administration reimbursement in accordance with the applicable general authority and the specific authority in section 17b-242(c) of the 2016 supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes.

Effective for dates of services July 1, 2016 and forward, DSS will reduce fees for medication administration codes as follows:

- T1502 - Administration of oral, intramuscular and/or subcutaneous medication by health care agency/professional, per visit, new rate: \$51.96 per visit.
- T1503 - Administration of medication, other than oral and/or injectable, by health care agency/professional, per visit, new rate: \$51.96 per visit.

The state budget approved by the General Assembly for state fiscal years 2016 and 2017 projected that medication administration would become more efficient by shifting, as clinically appropriate, a portion of this service to increased utilization of less costly methods of providing the service. Primarily, it was

projected that some medication administration would instead be provided by nurse delegation (medication administration by certified home health aides), as well as other least costly alternatives, such as medication administration devices (med boxes) and medication administration prompting by home health aides.

In addition to this rate reduction, DSS will continue to monitor utilization trends to ensure that Home Health providers continue to utilize the available less costly options for medication administration when clinically appropriate.

In accordance with section 17b-242(c) of the 2016 supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, DSS has monitored Medicaid home health care savings achieved through the implementation of nurse delegation as well as other less costly alternatives. Based on utilization analysis, DSS has determined that shifts to less costly modes of providing the service have been substantially less than anticipated and have generated only a small portion of the projected savings in the state budget approved by the General Assembly. Also in accordance with section 17b-242(c) of the 2016 supplement to the Connecticut General Statutes, DSS has prepared a report for submission to the General Assembly's Appropriations and Human Services Committees that includes provider specific cost and utilization trend data and other information required by the statute. That report is attached to this policy transmittal.

Compliance with Federal Access Regulations

In accordance with federal regulations at 42 C.F.R. §§ 447.203 and 447.204, DSS is required to ensure that there is sufficient access to Medicaid services, including services where payment rates are proposed to be reduced. Those federal regulations also require DSS to have ongoing mechanisms for Medicaid members, providers, other stakeholders, and the public to provide DSS with feedback about access. In addition to other available procedures, providers (as well as Medicaid members and other stakeholders) may give DSS feedback about the impact of this change on access to home health medication administration services. Written feedback about access may be sent to the DSS contact listed at the bottom of this policy transmittal.

Accessing the Fee Schedule:

The Home Health fee schedule can be accessed and downloaded by going to the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program's Web site: www.ctdssmap.com. From this Web site, go to "Provider", then to "Provider Fee Schedule Download", click on I Accept then scroll down to the "Home Health" fee schedule.

For questions about billing or if further assistance is needed to access the fee schedule on the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program Web site, please contact the Provider Assistance Center, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 1-800-842-8440.

Posting Instructions: Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution: This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program by Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

Responsible Unit: DSS, Medical Care Administration, Medical Policy and Regulations, William Halsey, Behavioral Health Unit at (860) 424-5077 or william.halsey@ct.gov

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