



Optum Contracted Medicaid Providers: What you need to know about the 2019 CPT[®] code changes

The American Medical Association (AMA) recently announced that there will be changes related to coding and billing for some behavioral health services beginning on January 1, 2019. Many permanent CPT codes used to bill for Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing and certain temporary CPT codes used to bill for Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services will expire effective December 31, 2018. For any claims for dates of service on or after January 1, 2019, replacement CPT codes will apply for applicable services, and claims submitted using the expired temporary codes may be subject to denial. Here are more specific details:

Psychological/Neuropsychological Testing Services

If you are a provider serving Medicaid memberships who is currently contracted to bill for psychological or neuropsychological testing services using CPT codes expiring on December 31, 2018, please use the updated code sets starting on January 1, 2019. For these new CPT codes, you will be reimbursed at the rates set forth by the state Medicaid agency after rates for those codes are published by the state, if applicable. In the interim, you will be reimbursed at comparable rates for the expiring psychological/neuropsychological testing codes. Optum is working with all impacted states to secure rates for the new codes in a timely manner. After the new rates are received/published, Optum will review and update your Fee Schedule and complete a claims reconciliation process if needed; no action will be required on your part.

ABA Services

If you are a provider serving Medicaid memberships in a state where you are reimbursed for ABA services using the expiring temporary CPT codes, please bill using the new 2019 code set starting on January 1, 2019. For these new CPT codes, you will be reimbursed at the rates set forth by the applicable state Medicaid agency after rates for those codes are published by the state, if applicable. In the interim, you will be reimbursed at rates comparable to the rates for the expiring temporary codes. Optum is working with all impacted states to secure rates for the new codes in a timely manner. After the new rates are received/published, Optum will review and update your Fee Schedule and complete a claims reconciliation process if needed; no action will be required on your part.

Please inform your billing departments as soon as possible of these changes to ensure that all staff and systems submit appropriate codes for January 1, 2019 dates of service forward.

If you are a provider of services for commercial &/or Medicare membership, please watch your mail for separate correspondence.

Should you have any questions, please contact your Network Manager or our Network Management Provider Service Line at (877) 614-0484.