



TO

Narcotic Treatment Services Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

REGARDING

Opioid Treatment Programs Submitting Claims for Phone Calls Under the Five-Minute Threshold

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ForwardHealth is temporarily altering certain policy requirements in order to prevent further spread of the disease and effectively treat existing cases. These changes are issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 49.45(61) and are in place until ForwardHealth announces otherwise. ForwardHealth will publish additional guidance about the topics addressed in this Alert when the temporary policies related to COVID-19 expire.

Opioid Treatment Programs Submitting Claims for Phone Calls Under the Five-Minute Threshold

Effective for dates of service on and after March 12, 2020, opioid treatment programs providing phone assessment and management services that do not meet the five-minute medical discussion threshold must submit required modifiers 52 (Reduced services) and GT (Via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems) with Current Procedural Terminology [procedure code 98966](#) and place of service code 02 (Telehealth) on the professional claim to report reduced services. When documenting the call, the amount of time spent in medical discussion must be explicitly documented in the record to support the procedure code billed prior to submitting the claim. The call must include real-time medical discussion with the member. A call with less than five minutes spent in medical discussion requires modifier 52 for reimbursement. Reimbursement will not be reduced when modifier 52 is used with procedure code 98966.

In addition, the phone Current Procedural Terminology procedure codes 98966–98968 published in [Alert 005](#), titled “Temporary Changes to Narcotic Treatment Services,” are reimbursable for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and substance abuse counselors.

All other [current documentation requirements](#) for narcotic treatment services remain applicable.