

Affected Programs: BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

To: Home Health Agencies, Hospital Providers, Individual Medical Supply Providers, Medical Equipment Vendors, Nursing Homes, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Physician Clinics, Physicians, Rehabilitation Agencies, Therapy Groups, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

Changes to Billing Policy for Serial Casting for Therapy Providers

This *ForwardHealth Update* announces changes to billing policy for serial casting services for therapy providers.

New Billing Policy

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after July 1, 2017, ForwardHealth will allow an occupational therapist (OT) or physical therapist (PT) to bill for serial casting using general casting and casting supply codes. Serial casting is the process of repeated application of casts at a joint for the purpose of increasing range of motion. Refer to the Physical Therapy Procedure Codes topic (topic #2792) and the Occupational Therapy Codes topic (topic #2793) in the Codes chapter of the Covered and Noncovered Services section of the Therapies: Physical, Occupational, and Speech and Language Pathology service area of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook for a list of allowable *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT) and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure codes including allowable general casting and casting supply codes. Therapy providers may no longer use durable medical equipment HCPCS procedure codes L2999 (lower extremity orthoses, not otherwise specified) and L3999 (upper limb orthosis, not otherwise specified) to bill for these services.

Serial casting does not include the application of a cast, or subsequent casts, to immobilize a joint following fracture, injury, or surgery. Claims will be denied for general casting codes and casting supply codes submitted by OTs or PTs, as

a rendering provider, for the purpose of immobilizing a joint following a fracture, injury, or surgery.

Reimbursement

ForwardHealth's reimbursement for general casting codes includes evaluation time, fitting time, and follow-up time. Cast materials are reimbursable when billed separately with the appropriate HCPCS procedure code(s).

Prior Authorization Submission

Serial casting (including the general casting procedures and supplies) is allowed under the initial spell of illness (SOI). After the first 35 visits covered by the initial SOI, PA is required. All claims for serial casting with a corresponding approved PA must be submitted with the same procedure code that was indicated on the PA, regardless of the DOS.

Providers are required to submit the following to ForwardHealth when requesting PA for serial casting:

- The Prior Authorization Request Form (PA/RF), F-11018 (05/13)
- The Prior Authorization/Therapy Attachment (PA/TA), F-11008 (07/12)
- Medical documentation including the medical need for serial casting. For information regarding submitting PA requests, refer to the Prior Authorization Therapy Attachment Completion Instructions on the Forms page of the ForwardHealth Portal at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

Note: Effective for DOS on and after July 1, 2017, ForwardHealth will no longer accept PA requests for serial casting submitted with a Prior Authorization/Durable Medical Equipment Attachment (PA/DMEA), F-11030 (07/12). These PA requests will not be processed and will be returned to the provider.

ForwardHealth will not be converting previously approved PAs with procedure codes L2999 or L3999 to CPT general casting and HCPCS casting supply codes. Additionally, providers with existing PAs should not submit PA amendments to change the procedure code(s) to general casting and casting supply codes. All PA requests for serial casting that are submitted with procedure codes L2999 or L3999 for DOS on and after July 1, 2017, will be returned to the provider.

Claim Submission

OTs and PTs are required to submit a professional claim for serial casting using the appropriate CPT general casting and HCPCS casting supply procedure code(s). Refer to the therapies maximum allowable fee schedule for max fees.

As a reminder, ForwardHealth adheres to National Correct Coding Initiative rules issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Providers should refer to the National Correct Coding Initiative topic (topic #11537) of the Responses chapter of the Claims section of the Online Handbook for further information.

Required Modifiers

Providers are required to use the following modifiers with the appropriate CPT general casting procedure code(s) and HCPCS casting supply code(s) for claims and PA requests:

- GO (Services delivered under an outpatient occupational therapy plan of care)
- GP (Services delivered under an outpatient physical therapist plan of care)

Diagnosis Codes

International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification diagnosis codes related to a condition that requires the repeated application of casts at a joint for the

purpose of increasing range of motion are allowable for serial casting claims. ForwardHealth does not cover serial casting for the treatment of fractures; therefore, diagnosis codes related to immobilizing a joint following a fracture, injury, or surgery (diagnosis code range including, but not limited to, S00.00–T88.9) are not reimbursable for serial casting performed by an OT or PT.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This *Update* contains fee-for-service policy and applies to services members receive on a fee-for-service basis only. For managed care policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization (MCO). MCOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health, DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.

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This *Update* was issued on 6/29/17 and information contained in this *Update* was incorporated into the Online Handbook on 7/3/17.