



**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN**  
**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA \* DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE**

**SUBJECT**

Additional Place-of-Service (Office) for Psychotherapy

**BY**

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Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs

**NUMBER:**

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**ISSUE DATE:**

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**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

June 1, 2001

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform psychiatrists and psychologists that psychotherapy may now be billed to the Medical Assistance (MA) Program when performed in the provider's office.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all psychiatrists and psychologists enrolled in the MA Program and providing services to eligible MA recipients in either the fee-for-service or managed care delivery systems.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The Department of Public Welfare recently became aware of a potential scope of practice issue related to the provision of psychotherapy by psychiatrists or psychologists. The issue concerns the current place of service limitation of the provision of psychotherapy to the clinic setting.

Currently, the place of service listed on the MA Program Fee Schedule for psychiatrists and psychologists to provide psychotherapy is limited to the clinic setting. Historically psychiatrists and psychologists could use the MA Program Exception Process in order to be reimbursed for psychotherapy services in their offices. The Department has implemented the following programmatic changes in order to ensure prompt access to these services:

- Psychiatrists: the following procedure codes, with type service 70, are now included on the MA Program Fee Schedule with an additional place of service - office (01).

Type Service	Procedure Code	Terminology	Fee
70	W0148	PSYCHOTHERAPY (INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, COLLATERAL) QUARTER-HOUR INCREMENTS; ONLY TO BE USED AFTER INITIAL HALF-HOUR SESSION	\$13.00
70	W0981	GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ½ HOUR \$14.00 PER PERSON PER HOUR; MINIMUM SESSION 1 HR; MINIMUM TWO AND MAXIMUM TEN SESSIONS IN GROUP (RECIPIENTS AND NON-RECIPIENTS)	\$7.00
70	W0983	FAMILY PSYCHOTHERAPY; ONE-HALF HOUR	\$26.00

70	W0984	COLLATERAL FAMILY PSYCHOTHERAPY; ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION PROVIDED TO THE FAMILY MEMBER(S) OF A CLINICAL PATIENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THAT PATIENT	\$26.00
70	W9801	INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY ONE-HALF HOUR	\$26.00

NOTE: Psychiatrists will not be permitted to bill an office visit and psychotherapy on the same day. Please see 55 Pa. Code Chapter § 1150. 56(b)(3).

- Psychologists: the following procedure codes with type of service PS are now included on the MA Program Fee Schedule with an additional place of service - office (01).

Type Service	Procedure Code	Terminology	Fee
PS	W0148	PSYCHOTHERAPY (INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, COLLATERAL) QUARTER-HOUR INCREMENTS; ONLY TO BE USED AFTER INITIAL HALF-HOUR SESSION	\$13.00
PS	W0981	GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ½ HOUR \$14.00 PER PERSON PER HOUR; MINIMUM SESSION 1 HR; MINIMUM TWO AND MAXIMUM TEN SESSIONS IN GROUP (RECIPIENTS AND NON-RECIPIENTS)	\$7.00
PS	W0983	FAMILY PSYCHOTHERAPY; ONE-HALF HOUR	\$26.00
PS	W0984	COLLATERAL FAMILY PSYCHOTHERAPY; ONE-HALF HOUR SESSION PROVIDED TO THE FAMILY MEMBER(S) OF A CLINICAL PATIENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THAT PATIENT	\$26.00
PS	W9801	INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY ONE-HALF HOUR	\$26.00

NOTE: Psychologists are limited, under the MA Program, to billing for medically necessary services to MA recipients under the age of 21, and MA recipients, dually eligible for MA and Medicare. Psychologists will not be permitted to bill an office visit and psychotherapy on the same day.

To assist psychologists, please find attached a revised MA Program Fee Schedule reflecting the addition of psychotherapy procedure codes.

**PROCEDURE:**

Effective with the issuance of this bulletin, psychiatrists and psychologists no longer need to use the MA Program Exception Process in order to receive payment for medically necessary psychotherapy provided in the office setting.

MA providers enrolled in either a mandatory (Health Choices), voluntary, or MA managed care organization (MCO) delivery system, should contact the appropriate MCO for any additional MCO-specific administrative procedure.

**Attachments**

- Medical Assistance Program Fee Schedule - Expanded Services for Children Under 21 Years of Age - Provider Type 41**

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap).