

COMMUNITY HEALTHCHOICES (CHC)

OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM #2023-08

SUBJECT: Street Medicine

TO: CHC-Managed Care Organizations (MCO)

FROM: Bureau of Policy Development and Communications Management

DATE: November 15, 2023

PURPOSE

The CHC Agreement, in Section VIII.C., requires that CHC-MCOs must submit electronic data as specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). This Operations Memorandum explains a new Place of Service (POS) code that CHC-MCOs must use on encounters for Medical Assistance (MA)-covered services to participants experiencing unsheltered homelessness when delivered in their lived environment.

PROCEDURES

On July 5, 2023, DHS issued MA Bulletin 08-23-12 et.al. titled “Street Medicine,” to inform MA providers that DHS will pay for certain physical and behavioral health services including, but not limited to, primary care, vaccine administration, wound care, preventive services, counseling, and diagnostic services, when delivered to MA participants experiencing unsheltered homelessness when delivered in their lived environment. The MA Bulletin identified the eligible providers and instructed them to use POS 15 (Mobile Unit) with the U2 modifier to indicate the service was rendered to a participant experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their lived environment.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services created POS 27 (Outreach Site/Street), that is effective October 1, 2023. POS 27 is defined as a non-permanent location on the street or found environment, not described by any other POS code, where health professionals provide preventive, screening, diagnostic, and/or treatment services to unsheltered homeless individuals. On September 29, 2023, DHS issued an updated MA Bulletin, MA Bulletin 01-23-26 et. al., to replace the July 5, 2023, MA

Bulletin, announcing the use of POS 27, and expanding the scope of providers that may bill for certain MA-covered services using POS 27 in the MA Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system.

To align with FFS coverage, to facilitate tracking, and to ensure that services are made available to unhoused participants, CHC-MCOs must provide coverage, at a minimum, for the services included in MA Bulletins pertaining to street medicine when rendered by a provider included in the scope of those bulletins. CHC-MCOs may cover additional services or services rendered by additional provider types in a participant's lived environment if it is clinically appropriate to do so. Encounters submitted to DHS must use POS Code 27 to indicate when services are rendered to a participant experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their lived environment.

NEXT STEPS

1. Review this information with appropriate staff.
2. Contact the Bureau of Coordinated and Integrated Services if you have questions.