

<b>ISSUE DATE</b> September 15, 2020	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> October 1, 2020	<b>NUMBER</b> 08-20-04
<b>SUBJECT</b>  Vision Services Provided in the Federally Qualified Health Center and Rural Health Clinic Settings		<b>BY</b>  Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISE to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: [http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S\\_001994](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994).

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin is to notify Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) that the Department of Human Services (Department) will make a prospective payment system (PPS) encounter payment for vision services provided by an ophthalmologist or optometrist, effective with dates of service on and after October 1, 2020.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to MA enrolled FQHCs and RHCs that provide vision services to beneficiaries in the MA fee-for-service and managed care delivery systems. MA Program enrolled FQHCs and RHCs that provide vision services to beneficiaries in the managed care delivery system should direct any coding or payment questions to the appropriate managed care organization.

**BACKGROUND:**

MA enrolled FQHCs and RHCs may provide vision services. Vision services must be identified in the FQHC's HRSA approved Scope of Project. Eye care is a critical element of overall health. A comprehensive eye exam not only reveals a change in a person's vision, but it can be an early detector of serious health conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

<p><b>COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:</b></p> <p>The appropriate toll free number for your provider type.</p> <p>Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at:  <a href="http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm">http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm</a>.</p>
--

**DISCUSSION:**

Beginning October 1, 2020, the Department will pay a provider-specific PPS encounter payment for vision services rendered by an ophthalmologist or optometrist, in addition to a physical health, a behavioral health and a dental encounter on the same day.

The Department assigned the U3 pricing modifier to procedure code T1015 (Clinic visit/encounter, all-inclusive) for FQHCs and RHCs to use to bill a vision PPS encounter payment.

Beneficiaries 21 years of age and older are limited to two optometrist encounters per calendar year as identified in the Pennsylvania State Plan.

**PROCEDURE:**

Effective with dates of service on and after October 1, 2020, the Department will pay a provider-specific vision PPS encounter rate to FQHCs and RHCs for vision services provided by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. FQHCs and RHCs may bill for a vision encounter in addition to a physical health, behavioral health and dental encounter on the same day.

In order to be receive a separate vision PPS encounter rate and be eligible to bill for vision encounters, FQHCs and RHCs must submit an MA FQHC Cost Report to the Department. The Department will determine the FQHC's or RHC's vision PPS encounter rate. The medical and dental PPS encounter rate may also be adjusted as a result of the FQHC and RHC addition of vision services.

The FQHC and RHC must include the U3 pricing modifier with T1015 on the claim to be paid for a vision encounter provided by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

The Department does not make a PPS encounter payment to FQHCs or RHCs for vision services provided by a practitioner other than an ophthalmologist or optometrist.