



Massachusetts Medicaid

Overview

Medicaid is a program whereby federal and state governments share the cost of providing approximately 58 million needy Americans with health care coverage. To qualify for the program, states must include hospital services, prevention services, skilled nursing and home health care coverage for adults, and prevention and treatment services for children.

Unlike Medicare, Medicaid has a state funding component, and allows each state to write its own rules for medical coverage. Therefore, every state may define PA scope of practice and reimbursement rules.

State Specific Information

Enrollment/Credentialing

PAs are covered for medical services they provide to Medicaid patients in Massachusetts. Although PAs are not credentialed nor enrolled by Massachusetts Medicaid, practices may submit claims for services provided by PAs using the provider number of the PA's supervising physician. Reimbursement is paid to the PA's employer at 100 percent of the physician fee schedule.

First Assist at Surgery

"The MassHealth agency does not pay for surgical assistance provided by a physician assistant."

Source: 130 CMR 433.434(D)(2)p. 4-29

Co-Signature

Medical records requirements for the Massachusetts Medicaid program include physician co-signature on the hospital medical records for **inpatient** hospital services;

"The physician claiming payment for any hospital inpatient visit services must sign the entry in the hospital medical record that documents the findings of the comprehensive history and physical examination."

Source: 130 CMR 433.409(E), p.4-12

PT/OT/Speech referrals may require co-signature, as PAs are not listed as a practitioner authorized to write referrals for these services; Source: 130 CMR 433.471 (B) p.4-55

FAQ:

How can I obtain more information about Medicaid reimbursement in Massachusetts?

Information about Massachusetts Medicaid reimbursement is available from the Office of Health and Human Services. The link to the Physician Manual is:

http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/masshealth/regs_provider/regs_physician.pdf.

The AAPA reimbursement office staff at 703/836-2272, ext. 3218 or 3219 can also help answer questions about the Medicaid program.