



NEWS RELEASE

PSTAC Gains Important Update to the Medication Therapy Management Service (MTMS) CPT Codes

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (October 9, 2007) – The pharmacy profession recently reached an important milestone by obtaining Category I status for the MTMS CPT codes. This is a major step forward that should expand pharmacists' ability to provide valuable professional services for their patients.

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes are the nomenclature used by the health care industry for reporting professional services, laboratory tests, and medical procedures in health care claims. Each CPT code consists of a narrative description and an identifying code. In 2000, the CPT code set was designated in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) as the national coding standard for the health care industry. The American Medical Association (AMA) CPT Editorial Panel representing all specialties of medicine and allied health care professionals including pharmacists is in charge of developing CPT codes.

The Pharmacist Services Technical Advisory Coalition (PSTAC) applied and received approval for Medication Therapy Management Service (MTMS) codes in February 2005. The AMA assigned three (3) temporary codes that are being used exclusively by pharmacists in billing for MTMS. The three current MTMS CPT codes are 0115T, 0116T, and 0117T. These codes are deemed Category III codes, which mean they are temporary codes for emerging services, technology, and procedures. Category III codes are limited in duration—up to five years.

PSTAC submitted an application to the CPT Editorial Panel to change the MTMS CPT code status from temporary Category III to the permanent Category I classification. In preparing for the application, PSTAC funded a national survey of payors and providers to gather information pertaining to the widespread availability of medication therapy management services. Survey results indicated a total of 2.8 million face-to-face MTMS encounters between years 2004 and 2006.

Category I status was officially granted by the CPT Editorial Panel at its February 2007 meeting, thus establishing the MTMS codes as permanent codes. The MTMS codes have been reassigned new code numbers and are included in the recently-released edition of the CPT manual, CPT 2008. Pharmacists should keep in mind that the current MTMS CPT codes will continue to be used for the remainder of 2007. The new codes are effective January 1, 2008. The new codes, code descriptors, and accompanying text are:

Medication therapy management service(s) (MTMS) describe face-to-face patient assessment and intervention as appropriate, by a pharmacist, upon request. MTMS is provided to optimize the response to medications or to manage treatment-related medication interactions or complications.

MTMS includes the following documented elements: review of the pertinent patient history, medication profile (prescription and nonprescription), and recommendations for improving health outcomes and treatment compliance. These codes are not to be used to describe the provision of product-specific information at the point of dispensing or any other routine dispensing-related activities.

- 99605 Medication therapy management service(s) provided by a pharmacist, individual, face-to-face with patient, with assessment and intervention if provided; initial 15 minutes, new patient
- 99606 initial 15 minutes, established patient
- 99607 each additional 15 minutes (List separately in addition to code for primary service)

PSTAC is a coalition of seven national pharmacy organizations including: the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP), the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (ASCP), the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS), and the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA).

The coalition has been successful at integrating pharmacists and their professional services into the traditional medical services billing model. PSTAC provides the national leadership necessary to secure pharmacy's position in the national electronic data interchange environment related to health encounter/claims processing and payment of pharmacist professional services.

For more information about PSTAC and the MTMS codes, go to www.pstac.org or email info@pstac.org.

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