

Final Comments**PSYCH-015 - Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention L30514****Summary of Comments regarding:****PSYCH-015 Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention L30514****Comment:**

The Health & Behavior Assessment/Intervention codes are only allowable by Psychologists, but describe activities that are primarily CSW activities... at least in IL. I do not know of any CP's providing this service. I believe patients would be best served by adding allowance to CSW's to bill these codes.

Response:

Wisconsin Physicians Service (WPS) developed this local coverage determination (LCD) to assist providers who are confused regarding the use of CPT code for Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention. The American Medical Association (AMA) has very specific instructions in the CPT code book regarding the use of the code.

CPT codes 96150-96154 are reported to describe services, performed to address difficulties associated with an acute or chronic illness, prevention of a physical illness or disability and maintain health, that do not meet criteria for a psychiatric diagnosis.

Per the AMA CPT code book, when a service such as health and behavior assessment and/or intervention performed is by a physician, clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, the services should be billed using the appropriate evaluation and management CPT codes

Comment:

On page 3 item 1 b. "The beneficiary has not been diagnosed with mental illness, and.... The language in the LCD which excludes people with a mental illness diagnosis appears discriminatory. This wording suggests that anyone with a prior mental health diagnosis would be excluded from this service even if the service was being applied to a different condition. e.g. sometimes these codes are used to help someone with fibromyalgia learn relaxation/guided imagery to assist with chronic pain. Perhaps this individual had been diagnosed with depression a number of years ago and is or is not currently receiving treatment for the depression. Is this person excluded from receiving the relaxation/guided imagery for her pain?"

Response:

This line has been changed to:

The purpose of the assessment is not for the diagnosis or treatment of mental illness, and

Using, billing, and coding of Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention CPT codes is based solely on definitions found in the CPT Code Book. Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention services identify psychological, behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and social factors important to the prevention, treatment or management of physical health problems. The focus of the assessment is not on mental health but on the biopsychosocial factors important to physical health problems and treatments.

If there is known mental health disease, then the appropriate mental health service, not Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention, would be performed and billed. If mental health is a known

factor in the assessment, then a Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention code not would be the appropriate CPT code to use when billing this service.