



TOBY DOUGLAS
DIRECTOR

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

January 19, 2011

PFC Program Notice 11- 01

Subject: Addition of Pain and Symptom Management to Pediatric Palliative Care Waiver as New Service for Hospice Agencies

The purpose of this Program Notice is to inform PFC Providers and participating County CCS staff of the addition of Pain and Symptom Management as a new service for hospice agencies providing services to clients participating in the pediatric palliative care waiver.

Background

Partners for Children was implemented in 2009, with a spectrum of services including care coordination, family training, respite, expressive therapies and bereavement. Shortly after implementation, Children's Medical Services Branch received feedback from hospice providers that an additional service was needed, one that would allow hospices to provide nursing care, both in response to urgent calls received by the hospice agency 'triage nurse', and as part of the ongoing care of the client. The addition of this benefit would ensure that an approved PFC hospice agency can provide the complete spectrum of palliative care services to the children enrolled in PFC. In response to the feedback from hospice providers, a request for amendment of the waiver to add this benefit was submitted to federal CMS, with an approval received in late 2010.

The pain and symptom management service is now available to PFC participants receiving services through a hospice agency. Prior to this notice, pain and symptom management has been a state-plan benefit but has not been reimbursable to hospice agencies on a fee-for-service basis. Hospice agencies have been reimbursed on a per-diem basis for this benefit for individuals enrolled in hospice, which excludes children enrolled in PFC.

Policy

Pain and symptom management as defined for the waiver, is nursing care in the home, provided by a registered nurse who will manage the waiver participant's symptoms and pain.

- The symptoms must be related to the waiver condition
- Management includes regular, ongoing, pain and symptom assessments to determine the effectiveness of the current regimen and available options for optimal relief of symptoms.
- Management also includes as needed visits to provide relief of suffering, during which, nurses assess the efficacy of current pain management and modify the regimen if needed to alleviate distressing symptoms and side effects using pharmacological, non-pharmacological and complementary/supportive therapies.

Policy Administration

The following service shall be authorized by the CCSNL for PFC participants when there is a request for management of pain and symptoms related to the PFC condition and services are delivered by an approved Hospice Agency PFC provider:

Procedure Code	Description	Rate	Modifier	Limits
S9123	Nursing care, in the home; by registered nurse, per hour.	\$40.57	None	Up to 100 hours, per year, per child.
		\$44.63	TT=Additional patient receiving pain and symptom management service in the same visit	

If there are any questions regarding this PFC Program Notice, please contact Jo Monday at 327-3024 or send an email to the PFC mailbox ccsppc@dhcs.ca.gov.

Original signed by Robert Dimand, MD

Robert Dimand, Chief Medical Officer
Children’s Medical Services