DATE: June 17, 2019

MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 19-031

TO: COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS
   COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS
   COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
   CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES
   COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS
   CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES, INC.
   CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
   CALIFORNIA OPIOID MAINTENANCE PROVIDERS
   CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
   CALIFORNIA CONSORTIUM OF ADDICTION PROGRAMS AND PROFESSIONALS

SUBJECT: DRUG MEDI-CAL ORGANIZED DELIVERY SYSTEM INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT SERVICES CLAIMING PROCEDURE CHANGE

PURPOSE: To provide explanation and instruction on changes to the claiming procedure for the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Intensive Outpatient Services (IOS).

BACKGROUND
DMC-ODS IOS claiming was programmed in the Short Doyle Medi-Cal (SDMC) system with a single Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) billing code – H0015. The H0015 HCPCS code is the standard for IOS. This code is used to capture all structured activities for the counseling components of the IOS: Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, and Patient Education.

DISCUSSION
The original claiming procedure for IOS combines three counseling components into one HCPCS billing code. The effect of combining the components has prevented counties and DHCS from performing some quality assurance and utilization management activities in IOS. DHCS will modify the SDMC system to accept IOS claims.
using separate HCPCS billing codes with modifiers to allow for the identification of each component of counseling service provided to each beneficiary.

INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT SERVICES
Individual Counseling – HCPCS H0004 with modifier U8
Group Counseling – HCPCS H0005 with modifier U8
Patient Education – HCPCS H0015 with modifier U8

All other requirements for modifiers to identify perinatal and youth beneficiaries remain unchanged. The update to SDMC to incorporate the changes in HCPCS codes is effective July 1, 2019.

DEFINITIONS
From the DMC-ODS Intergovernmental Agreement (IA) -

“Intensive outpatient services involves structured programming provided to beneficiaries as medically necessary for a minimum of nine hours and a maximum of 19 hours per week for adult perinatal and non-perinatal beneficiaries. Adolescents are provided a minimum of six and a maximum of 19 hours per week. Group size is limited to no less than two (2) and no more than twelve (12) beneficiaries.”

“Patient Education” means providing research based education on addiction, treatment, recovery and associated health risks.

Note: Group-counseling size is limited to no less than two and no more than twelve beneficiaries. Patient education is not limited to the two-to-twelve group size.

QUESTIONS
Please contact your assigned Fiscal Management and Accountability Section analyst with any questions regarding these changes to claiming for DMC-ODS IOS.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brenda Grealish, Acting Deputy Director
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services