

BWC Policy Alert

2017 BWC Coding Clarification Proper Coding of Qualitative and Quantitative Drug Screens

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Policy Alert # 02-2017-09

Purpose

This BWC policy alert clarifies the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes and reimbursement rates that providers are to use for the payment of qualitative and quantitative drug screens detailed in the *Drug Testing* policy and procedure (MP-21-01).

Issue

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) replaced HCPCS codes G0477, G0478 and G0479. Providers used these codes to seek reimbursement from BWC for drug testing.

Discussion

As of Jan. 1, 2017, CMS replaced HCPCS codes G0477, G0478 and G0479 with new CPT codes 80305, 80306 and 80307 for testing qualitative drug screens.

Providers should use applicable HCPCS codes (i.e., G0477, G0478 and G0479) for dates of service Jan. 1, 2017, to April 30, 2017.

Effective May 1, 2017, BWC will only reimburse for CPT codes 80305, 80306 and 80307 for qualitative drug screens.

Furthermore, BWC will no longer reimburse for discontinued HCPCS codes G0477, G0478 and G0479 for qualitative drug screens reflecting dates of services on or after May 1, 2017. Providers using discontinued HCPCS codes must re-submit the request for reimbursement using the appropriate CPT codes (i.e., 80305, 80306 and 80307).

BWC will continue to reimburse providers for HCPCS codes G0480 and G0481 for quantitative drug screens.

Qualitative Drug Screen Reimbursement (CPT codes 80305, 80306 and 80307) – BWC will only allow reimbursement for one qualitative drug screen test per day, regardless of the number of supplies used, drug classes screened or procedures.

Quantitative Drug Screen Reimbursement (HCPCS codes G0480 and G0481) – The applicable HCPCS codes identified in this policy alert quantify the amount of a chemical substance in a drug test specimen.

BWC chose HCPCS codes G0480 and G0481 because it limits the number of drug classes BWC accepts during the screening process. BWC allows 10 different drug class tests, per the amount of classes tested. There is an option to use either HCPCS code G0480 (i.e., test 1-7 drug classes) or HCPCS code G0481 (i.e., test 8-14 drug classes).

For clarification purposes, under *Drug Testing policy* and procedure (MP-21-01), BWC will not reimburse for HCPCS codes G0482 (i.e., test 15-21 drug classes) and G0483 (i.e., test 22 or more drug classes).

BWC will continue to only allow reimbursement for one (1) HCPCS quantitative code (i.e., G0480 or G0481) per day, regardless of the number of supplies used, drug classes screened and/or procedures. Providers will choose a HCPCS code based on the number of drug classes tested. In addition, providers may only bill one of the two quantitative drug screen codes per day.

Conclusion

As of May 1, 2017, BWC will no longer authorize reimbursement to providers who seek payment for drug screens billed under HCPCS codes G0477, G0478 and G0479.

BWC shall only reimburse providers for one drug screen per day billed under CPT codes 80305, 80306 and 80307 for qualitative drug screens or HCPCS codes G0480 and G0481 for quantitative drug screens, regardless of the number of supplies used, drug classes screened and/or procedures.

This policy alert replaces Policy Alert 03-2016-25 — **2016 BWC Coding Clarification, Proper Coding of Qualitative and Quantitative Drug Screens.**

Location: <http://www.ohiobwc.com/provider/services/FeeSchedules.asp>

References

2017 Expert *HCPCS Level II*

2017 CPT Manual

Ohio Administrative Code 4123-6-08 Bureau fee schedule

Drug Testing, MP-21-01

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