

August 13, 2020

The New Mexico Human Services Department (HSD) Medical Assistance Division is providing notice of proposed changes to establish reimbursement parity for specific advanced practice pharmacists.

Effective July 1, 2020, the New Mexico Human Services Department proposes to implement Pharmaceutical Service Reimbursement Parity for pharmacist clinicians (PhC) and pharmacists certified with prescriptive authority. Pharmaceutical Service Reimbursement Parity would require all insurance programs to reimburse certified pharmacist clinicians and pharmacists certified with prescriptive authority, who are acting within the scope of their licenses, to be reimbursed at the same level as other covered providers such as physicians, physician assistants, or any advanced practice certified nurse practitioner providing the same service.

PhC's certified by the New Mexico Board of Pharmacy and under the direction of an approved supervisory physician may furnish services within their scope of practice but cannot bill directly for their services. Instead, under Medicaid, such services shall be billed by and paid to the supervising physician, physician group, clinic, hospital, IHS facility or other business entity at the lesser of the following:

- The supervising provider's billed charge;
- The Medicaid fee schedule amount for the specific service or procedure; or
- The supervising provider's usual and customary charge for the service or procedure.

Pharmacists certified with prescriptive authority for hormonal contraception, tobacco cessation, immunizations, tuberculosis testing, and Naloxone are not required to work under the supervision or direction of a physician. Therefore, the current structure of paying pharmacists with prescriptive authority for the ingredient cost plus a professional dispensing fee plus an incentive fee will be replaced by a fee-schedule structure based reimbursement to the pharmacy based on time the pharmacist spent with the patient or the complexity of the service at the same rate a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice nurse would bill for the same service.

The anticipated annual fiscal impact to HSD for this change is estimated to be \$671,000 in state and federal funds combined with a state general fund impact of \$190,000.

OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW DOCUMENTS AND MAKE COMMENTS

Medicaid providers, Medicaid recipients, and other interested parties may submit written comments directly to: Human Services Department, ATTN: Medical Assistance Division Public Comments, P.O. Box 2348, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2348. Recorded comments may be left at (505) 827-1337. Interested persons may also address comments via electronic mail to:

madrules@state.nm.us. All comments must be received no later than **5:00 pm Mountain Time, September 11, 2020**.

If you are a person with a disability and you require this information in an alternative format, please contact MAD at (505) 827-1337. The Department requests at least 10 working days advance notice to provide alternative formats and special accommodations.