Physician/Provider Bulletin

Subject: Evaluation and Management Service Guidelines
Plan: Coordinated Care
Bulletin Number: 13-07

The purpose of this bulletin is to assist participating providers in distinguishing between new and established patients:

“New” vs. “Established” Patients

CPT definitions clearly state:

A new patient is “one who has not received any professional services from the physician, another physician or an ancillary provider (including ARNP’s and P.A’s) of the exact same specialty and subspecialty who belongs to the same group practice, within the past three years.”

An established patient has received professional services from the physician, another physician or an ancillary provider (including ARNP’s and P.A’s) of the exact same specialty and subspecialty who belongs to the same group practice, within the prior three years.

Key Points…

In order to determine if your patient is “new” or “established”, you will need to understand two terms used in CPT’s definition of a new or established patient: “professional service” and “group practice”.

- Professional Service = CPT defines “professional service” as “those face-to-face services rendered by a physician and reported by a specific CPT code(s).”

- Group Practice/Ancillary Providers = Single-specialty or multiple-specialty practices are considered a single “group” if they have the same tax identification number.

If you have questions regarding this provider bulletin, please contact your Provider Representative at (561) 659-1002.

Please insert this bulletin into your Provider Handbook. The policies and procedures in this bulletin supersede any related policies and procedures within the handbook.