Physician Assistant (PA)

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37.1 Enrollment

To enroll in the Texas Medicaid Program, a physician assistant (PA) must be licensed and recognized as a PA by the Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners. The Texas Medicaid Program accepts a signed letter of certification from the Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners as acceptable documentation of appropriate licensure and certification for enrollment. Providers cannot be enrolled if their license is due to expire within 30 days.

All providers of laboratory services must comply with Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) rules and regulations. Providers not complying with CLIA are not reimbursed for laboratory services.

Refer to: “Provider Enrollment” on page 1-2 for more information about enrollment procedures. “CLIA Requirements” on page 26-2.

37.1.1 Enrollment in Texas Health Steps

PAs can enroll as Texas Health Steps (THSteps) providers. PAs should have expertise or additional education in the areas of comprehensive pediatric assessment.

Refer to: “Provider Enrollment” on page 43-5 for more information on enrollment procedures.

37.1.2 Medicaid Managed Care Enrollment

PAs may be eligible to enroll with Medicaid Managed Care as primary care providers. Contact the individual Medicaid Managed Care health plan for enrollment information.

Refer to: “Managed Care” on page 7-1 for more information.

37.2 Reimbursement

According to Title 1 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §355.8093, the Medicaid rate for PAs is 92 percent of the rate paid to a physician (Doctor of Medicine [MD] or Doctor of Osteopathy [DO]) for the same service and 100 percent of the rate paid to physicians for laboratory services, X-ray services, and injections. The current fee schedule is available on the TMHP website at www.tmhp.com. To request a hard copy, call the TMHP Contact Center at 1-800-925-9126.

Procedures billed by PAs are reviewed retrospectively for appropriateness. Independently enrolled PAs with a valid Medicare provider number are eligible to receive payment of deductible and coinsurance amounts as appropriate on Medicare crossover claims.

Refer to: “Provider Enrollment” on page 1-2 for more information. “TMHP Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)” on page 3-1 for information on how to obtain electronic fee schedules from the TMHP website.

37.3 Benefits and Limitations

Services performed by PAs are covered if the services meet the following criteria:

- Are within the scope of practice for PAs, as defined by Texas state law
- Are consistent with rules and regulations promulgated by the Texas Medical Board or other appropriate state licensing authority
- Are covered by the Texas Medicaid Program when provided by a licensed physician (MD or DO)
- Are reasonable and medically necessary as determined by HHSC or its designee

PAs who are employed or remunerated by a physician, hospital, facility, or other provider must not bill the Texas Medicaid Program for their services if the billing results in duplicate payment for the same services.

Additional information about benefit limitation for services can be found in the Physician, Texas Health Steps medical (includes newborn exams), and Family Planning sections of this manual.

Note: Payment to physicians for supplies is not a benefit of the Texas Medicaid Program. Costs of supplies are included in the reimbursement for office visits.

Important: Laboratory (including pregnancy tests) and radiology services provided during pregnancy must be billed separately from antepartum care visits and received within 95 days from the date of service.

Refer to: “Family Planning Services” on page 20-1 “Physician” on page 36-1 “THSteps Medical Checkup Facilities” on page 43-11.

37.4 Claims Information

Providers must submit PA services in an approved electronic format or on a CMS-1500 paper claim form. All services must be filed with modifier U7 on the claim detail(s) to indicate that the client was treated by a PA.

Refer to: “Claims Filing Instructions” on page 5-23 for paper claims completion instructions.
### 37.4.1 Claim Filing Resources

Refer to the following sections or forms when filing claims:

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