Clinical Pathology Consultation Services to Change for the CSHCN Services Program

Information posted April 17, 2015

Note: For the purposes of this article, “advanced practice registered nurse (APRN)” includes nurse practitioner (NP) and clinical nurse specialist (CNS) providers only.

Effective for dates of service on or after June 1, 2015, benefit criteria for clinical pathology consultations for the Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program will change.

Clinical pathology consultations are a benefit when they are performed by a clinical pathologist or geneticist. A geneticist may submit claims for procedure codes 80500 and 80502 using their physician provider identifier.

Independent laboratories will be added as a payable provider type for procedure codes 80500 and 80502 when services are performed in the independent laboratory setting.

Procedure codes 80500 and 80502 will no longer be a benefit when services are performed by an APRN or physician assistant.

Routine conversations between a consultant and an attending physician about test orders or results are not considered consultations.

The service does not qualify as a consultation if the information could ordinarily be furnished by a non-physician laboratory specialist.

Documentation Requirements

Claims for clinical pathology consultations must be submitted with the following documentation:

- The name and address, or the CSHCN Services Program provider identifier for the physician requesting the consultation, must be included on the claim. The national provider identifier (NPI) of the physician requesting the consultation should also be included, if known.
- A copy of the written narrative report describing the consultation findings.
- Documented interaction that clearly outlines that the consultant interpreted the test results and made specific recommendations to the ordering physician.

If the claim does not include all of this information, the clinical pathology consultation will be denied.

For more information, call the TMHP-CSHCN Services Program Contact Center at 1-800-568-2413.