



ProviderNews

Timely News & Information Of Interest To Healthcare Providers

Fee schedule changes

PEIA adopted a number of changes to its medical fee schedules that became effective Jan.1, 2009.

Resource Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) – PEIA uses Medicare’s January 2009 Relative Value Units (RVUs), adjusted by the West Virginia geographical factors. We continue to multiply the malpractice factor by 2.7 in order to increase the allowance for the more difficult and costly procedures. The new conversion factor is \$39.95.

Effective Jan.1, 2009, PEIA will implement Medicare’s policies of (a) capped payments on the technical component of designated diagnostic imaging procedures and (b) multiple procedure reductions when performed in the same imaging family.

Capped Payments – CMS requires a payment cap on the RBRVS technical component (TC) of certain diagnostic imaging procedures at the amount paid for the same services when performed in outpatient hospital departments. The cap applies to the RBRVS technical component of the service regardless of whether it is billed alone (i.e. CPT code +TC modifier) or as a part of a complete “global” procedure. The cap is based on the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) payment. The payment allowance is the

lower of the RBRVS and the OPPS payment amount. For the affected procedures, the lower of the TC RBRVS and OPPS payment allowances is included in the RBRVS Fee Schedule.

Multiple Procedure Reductions for Diagnostic Imaging – CMS reduces the fee allowances for multiple imaging services performed on the same day for imaging services in the same imaging family. The RBRVS Fee Schedule includes an indicator (see column AH) for applicable codes to designate imaging families. The indicators are:

Diagnostic Imaging Family Indicators

- 01 Ultrasound (Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis-Non-Obstetrical)
- 02 CT and CTA (Chest/Thorax/Abd/Pelvis)
- 03 CT and CTA (Head/Brain/Orbit/Maxillofacial/Neck)
- 04 MRI and MRA (Chest/Abd/Pelvis)
- 05 MRI and MRA (Head/Brain/Neck)
- 06 MRI and MRA (Spine)
- 07 CT (Spine)
- 08 MRI and MRA (Lower Extremities)
- 09 CT and CTA (Lower Extremities)
- 10 MR and MRI (Upper Extremities and Joints)
- 11 CT and CTA (Upper Extremities)
- Blank Not applicable

PEIA will allow 100 percent for the procedure with the highest RVUs or fee allowance. For the second through fourth procedures, PEIA will allow 75 percent of their respective values.

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Anesthesia – The new conversion factor is \$38.15.

Clinical Lab – The clinical lab fee schedule was updated to the January 2009 Medicare rates.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) – The DME fee schedule was updated, making the allowance 84 percent of Medicare’s January 2009 rates.

Outpatient Perspective Payment System (OPPS) – OPPS rates were updated. For calendar year 2009, the fixed dollar threshold is \$1,800. The statewide conversion factor is \$73.33.

Drugs and Biologicals – The agency updated the Drugs and Biologicals fee schedule. PEIA adopted Medicare allowances. Therefore, most drugs are covered at average sale price (ASP) plus six percent. Vaccines are included in this fee schedule, but their rates are set at 95 percent of average wholesale price (AWP).

The new RBRVS, Clinical Lab, DME, and Drugs and Biologicals fee schedules are on PEIA’s Web site at www.wvpeia.com. In the left column, select “Providers” and then “Current Fee Schedules” in the right column. Previous fee schedules are filed under Historical Fee Schedules.

The Prospective Payment System (PPS) update for inpatient services at acute care hospitals will be updated in October 2009. This allows PEIA and Medicaid to update the payment allowance and grouper on the same schedule as Medicare.

Revenue Code 637

Outpatient hospital claims that include expenses billed with revenue code (RC) 637 will be processed as follows:

RC 637 billed with expenses in the “Total Expenses” column (field 47)	Expenses will be bundled with APC payment and may not be billed to the member
RC 637 billed with expenses in the “Non-covered Expenses” column (field 48)	Expenses will be denied as “Not Covered” and will be billable to the member

This applies to PEIA secondary and primary claims. If Medicare denies the expense as “Not Covered,” since PEIA also does not cover this expense, the expense will be denied.

Wells Fargo contracts with Aetna, ActiveHealth

Effective July 1, 2009, Wells Fargo Third Party Administrators will be contracting with AETNA and its subsidiary ActiveHealth for services cur-



rently provided internally or by other subcontractors. The services included in this new contract are:

- Pre-certification and prior approval of medical services currently required by the PEIA, CHIP and AccessWV plans.
- Case management/care coordination.
- New disease management programs being added July 1.
- AETNA provider networks outside West Virginia.

PEIA, CHIP and AccessWV benefits and policies are not changing. Wells Fargo Third Party Administrators will continue to process all claims. The existing toll free number, 1-888-440-7342, will be the single point of contact for providers and plan participants before and after July 1.

AccessWV introduces new plan with lower premiums

AccessWV, West Virginia’s high-risk health insurance pool, introduced a new high deductible plan as of Jan. 1, 2009, with premiums up to 25 percent lower than those for its current products. Offered by the state of West Virginia, AccessWV guarantees that all West Virginia residents who qualify can purchase health insurance through the risk pool, regardless of their current and past health circumstance.

The new plan has a \$4,000 annual medical deduct-

ible and a \$2,000 annual pharmacy deductible. The plan covers a full range of inpatient and outpatient services, including prescription drugs. “First dollar” coverage is provided for office visits and certain preventive services; that is, they are not subject to the deductible but require a modest copayment. Other deductible options are available through AccessWV’s other plans.

AccessWV currently insures over 600 members who are unable to get coverage in the regular individual market due to their health status. Since its inception in 2005, AccessWV has provided an insurance “safety net” to almost 1,000 medically vulnerable West Virginians.

In addition to covering individuals who are eligible based on medical status, AccessWV serves as a qualified health plan for the federal Health Coverage Tax Credit program and as an option for persons with portability rights under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Additional information may be obtained by calling 1-866-445-8491 toll free or visiting www.accesswv.org/.

Health, Wellness Programs

If you know a PEIA member who is ready to make a lifestyle change, consider recommending one of the following programs, depending on the person’s needs and diagnosis:

The PEIA Face to Face Diabetes Program offers PEIA members with diabetes consultative services with a pharmacist and waiver of their diabetic drug and lab copayments, as long as they comply with program requirements. To apply, call 1-866-688-7493.

The PEIA Weight Management Program provides eligible members with dietitian services, exercise physiologists and personal trainers at approved fitness centers. To apply, call 1-866-688-7493.

The Dr. Dean Ornish Program for Reversing Heart Disease is for people diagnosed with heart disease, diabetes or who are at high risk for either condition. This hospi-

tal-based program addresses exercise, stress management and nutrition in a supportive environment. For more information about enrolling or attending, call 1-800-650-8442.

Tobacco cessation services are available to PEIA members who have been paying the standard premium. Physician services and pharmaceutical supports are provided with coverage of 12 weeks of therapy per year, three times per lifetime and unlimited support to pregnant women.

The PEIA Pathways Program provides health screens and lifestyle change programs at participating worksites. Qualified members can receive cash rebates for participating in the new *Improve Your Score* program. For more information: www.peiapathways.com/.

PEIA, Medical Community Tackle Childhood Obesity

West Virginia children are in trouble. According to the Coronary Risk Detection in Appalachian Communities (CARDIAC), 46 percent of 5th grade children are overweight, 33 percent have elevated lipids, 30 percent have abnormal insulin levels and 15 percent have high blood pressure.

Physicians, dietitians, exercise physiologists and other health professionals can play a significant role in working with families to educate them on the lifestyle changes needed for their children to live healthy and productive lives. The following is a partial list of projects aimed at tackling this problem:

Camp New You at WVU – Launched last year by the West Virginia School of Medicine and other professionals at WVU, Camp New You provides an intensive two-week residential program with year-round follow up services for children ages 11-14, addressing healthy eating and physical activity. Project sponsors are working with others in the provider community to expand this model to other regions of the state. PEIA and other insurers provide

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coverage for eligible participants. Parental and/or guardian participation is required. For more information, call 1-866-347-4757.

Multi-payer Pediatric Obesity Project – PEIA is a part of a multi-payer group collaborative, which has adopted the pediatric obesity epidemic as a priority project. Ten physician practices in West Virginia have been trained to provide counseling and referral services to at-risk and overweight children, utilizing the “5-2-1-0” model (five fruits and vegetables, no more than two hours of screen or television time, one hour a day of physical activity and zero sweetened drinks). Participating insurers have established applicable codes/fee schedules for physician reimbursement with an evaluation process to determine the effectiveness of the program.

West Virginia Games for Health – PEIA is a part of a collaborative involving the WVU School of Medicine and the WVU School of Physical Activity and Sports Sciences, the Children’s Health Insurance Program and Konami Digital Entertainment to place the video exercise game Dance Dance Revolution in West Virginia schools. Implementation is about two thirds complete.

“New You” at Tygart Valley Rehab and Fitness – As a part of a collaborative with the Northern West Virginia Rural Health Education Program, this facility offers the

first of its kind exercise-gaming facility for children in Grafton, W.Va. Children are referred through CARDIAC and PEIA which reimburse for services. Plans are now underway to utilize this model at the Cameron School in Marshall County, West Virginia. For more information, contact Mr. Lew Holloway at 304-462-6465.

New PEIA Dietitian benefit – PEIA now offers coverage for services from licensed, registered dietitians for children in the 85th percentile or above or adult members with diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, heart disease, kidney disease or metabolic syndrome. Coverage is limited to two visits per year when prescribed by a physician.

New mailing address

PEIA is now accepting mail at its new location. The agency’s new mailing address is:

PEIA
601 57th St., SE
Suite 2
Charleston, WV 25304-2345

Mail sent to the old address will be delivered, but please note this change and begin using the new address now.

State Capitol Complex
Building 5, Room 1001
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0710

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