



QUICK POINTS

Employer Provider Network, Inc.

February 19, 2009

Claims processing for massage and manual therapy services

On November 14, 2008, Provider Bulletin P22E-08 was issued highlighting policy changes for massage and manual therapy services, codes 97124 and 97140. The Bulletin which is available on ccstpa.com indicated that changes relating to payment of these services were effective on January 1, 2009.

Coding edit changes

Changes and updates to Employer Provider Network, Inc. (EPNI) coding edits are generally implemented based on the process date of the claim submitted by the provider, regardless of the date the service was incurred. In keeping with this policy, all massage and manual therapy claims processed on or after January 1, 2009 have been adjudicated according to the policy outlined in the Bulletin and the online EPNI Provider Policy and Procedure Manual, Chapter 8, Appeals.

Date of service

After further review, EPNI has made a business decision to apply the coding edits for massage and manual therapy services based on the date of service submitted on the claim. Services rendered on or after January 1, 2009 will be subject to the new policy. Services rendered prior to January 1, 2009 will be processed under our coding policy as it existed prior to the January 1, 2009 changes, regardless of the claim process date.

Reprocess claims

EPNI will initiate adjustment of claims for massage and manual therapy services rendered in 2008, adjudicated during the month of January 2009. These claims will be reprocessed in accordance with the coding policy in effect before the changes were implemented on January 1, 2009. If the procedure is a distinct procedural service **and** the -59 modifier is appropriately appended, the claim will be eligible for this process.

Please note that future claims will continue to process according to the policy communicated in the Bulletin, regardless of date of service. However, providers may request adjustments on any claims with 2008 dates of service, processed after January 2009, that meet the criteria cited in the paragraph above.

Any changes to claims, including provider requests to add modifier -59, will be subject to EPNI appeal guidelines as defined in the EPNI Provider Policy and Procedure Manual. As previously communicated, presence of the -59 modifier will not impact the processing of claims for massage and manual therapy services rendered on or after January 1, 2009.

For providers that have already sent in written appeals, for claims incurred prior to January 1, 2009, those claims will be captured in the reprocessing documented above.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact provider service at **(651) 662-5940** or toll free at **1-866-356-2425**.