

## ACO: Did You Know? Helpful Resources and Links to Keep You Informed

### CMS Introduces Advance Care Planning Billing Code for Physician Reimbursement

On January 1, 2016, CMS introduced an Advance Care Planning (ACP) billing code to reimburse physicians for discussing advance care planning with patients and their families. Below is information and requirements for billing:

- Conversations must be in-person discussions with the patient, patient's surrogate or family members.
- Patient does not need to have a specific diagnosis to have these conversations.
- Can be billed on the same day as an Evaluation and Management code, however, the document must clearly distinguish that the ACP time is not overlapping.
- Physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants (those that are eligible to independently bill Medicare for CPT services) are the only providers who can use these codes.
- There are 'incident to' rules that apply in the outpatient setting, which means a provider can perform the initial service, a team member can deliver part of the service, with supervision and involvement of the provider. 'Incident to' rules cannot be used in provider-based setting, hospital inpatient and outpatient and nursing home setting.
- [Click here](#) for an Institute for Healthcare Improvement ACP Medicare Reimbursement FAQ.

#### Documentation needs to include:

- Total time in minutes.
- Patient/surrogate/family "given the opportunity to decline."
- Details of the context (Who was involved? What was discussed? Understanding of the illness by patient or guardian, spiritual factors, why are they making the decision they are making? Was any advance directive offered/filled out? Follow-up.)

#### For Rural Health Clinics (RHC) and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC):

- The ACP is a stand-alone billable visit.
- If furnished on the same day as another billable visit at the RHC or FQHC, only one visit will be paid.
- All other RHC or FQHC program requirements must be met.

In response to the CMS code, many other insurance companies are following suit and accept the ACP code, including:

- Anthem
- Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare
- Aetna
- Community Health Options

The chart below provides detail for ACP CPT Codes:

| ACP CPT Code            | Details   | Time Requirement                                | Reimbursement | Co-payment   |
|-------------------------|---|---|---------------|--|
| 99497                   | Advance care planning including explanation and discussion of advance directives such as standard forms (with completion of such forms, when performed) by the physician or other qualified health professional; first 30 minutes, face-to-face with the patient, family member(s) and/or surrogate | If you meet or exceed 16 minutes                | 1.5 RVUs      | Co-pay waived if included as part of annual wellness visit.<br><br>If conversation occurs at another visit, Part B cost sharing applies and patient may have copay/coinsurance |
| 99498 – add-on CPT code | Each additional 30 minutes (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)  | Use both codes if you meet or exceed 46 minutes | 1.4 RVUs      |  |

Please consult with and collaborate closely with your local billing compliance expert when using these codes.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The minimum time requirement to meet the CMS Advance Care Planning billing code is 16 minutes and the time includes documentation? Other insurances are reimbursing for these discussions.

Want to learn more about the ACP code, [click here.](#)

**Delirium Detection and Treatment Video**

As part of a grant awarded by HRSA, Sarah Hallen, MD, developed a framework to educate the interdisciplinary health care team with a goal of providing better care for hospitalized older adults.

The framework—titled “Concepts in Common”—distills and clarifies complex concepts while helping team members to understand their roles in providing better care, become more effective in recognizing delirium and taking appropriate and effective action for treatment.

As part of a joint educational effort between Maine Medical Partners Geriatrics and MaineHealth, Maine Medical Center's, Rhonda Babine, MS, APRN, ACNS-BC, worked closely with Dr. Hallen to implement this model through the distribution of related materials throughout Maine Medical Center. Through research conducted, they discovered this model can also help with fall prevention. Sharon Foerster, LCSW, and program manager with MaineHealth's Elder Care Services, worked with Dr. Hallen and Rhonda to create a video with a goal of proving broader access to the MaineHealth system. This video is widely accessible via YouTube and through POGO-e, the Portal of Geriatric Online Education.

To view the video, click [here](#).

**Register Now “Advances in Stroke Care in Maine” Conference**

Join the American Heart Association (AHA), the American Stroke Association (ASA) and the NorthEast Cerebrovasculat Consortium (NECC) for the “Advances in Stroke Care in Maine” conference on Tuesday, September 13 at the Senator Inn & Spa in Augusta.

This one-day program is a professional education event to advance the existing stroke system of care in Maine, expand stroke knowledge on new topics, share best practices with peer hospitals and an opportunity for the AHA/ASA and The NECC to support regional efforts. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

**Enhanced Personal Health Care Program Collaborative Learning Opportunities Available from Anthem**

Anthem's Enhanced Personal Health Care Program (EPHC) supports many of our practices and organizations toward improved outcomes through a variety of resources. Through the development of partnerships with primary care delivery teams, Anthem Care Consultants work to provide access to their data with a focus on advancing the Triple Aim.

As a MaineHealth ACO participant, Anthem invites you to join the EPHC's Collaborative Learning Opportunities which support practices at every stage of development.

The events are free of charge and are held throughout the year. Registration is easy — you can participate live, or access previous events through a recording library.

[Click here](#) to learn more information and register!

**Register Today for Anthem's Symposium on Behavioral Health and Maine's Opiate Crisis**

**Topic:** Behavioral Health in Primary Care Surrounding Maine's Opiate Crisis

**Date:** September 14, 2016

**Location:** Anthem, 2 Gannett Drive, South Portland, ME

If you have questions, please email: [me\\_primarycareprogram@anthem.com](mailto:me_primarycareprogram@anthem.com) or [click here](#) for registration details.

**Save the Date! MaineHealth ACO Office Managers Forum**

**Date:** Thursday, September 22, 2016

**Time:** 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm (lunch available at 11:30am)

**Location:** Dana Center, Auditorium - Maine Medical Center, Portland

**Topic:** The high-level agenda includes: Health Plan / Payer presentations (details will be included on the RSVP form); Overview of MACRA / MIPS

Watch for the full agenda and RSVP form in the mail soon.

Questions? Contact Kelly Seiler, Contract and Provider Relations Manager, at 207-482-7066 or [kseiler@mmc.org](mailto:kseiler@mmc.org)

**Zika Virus Resources and Information**

ACO clinicians and patients may have questions about the Zika virus, mosquito control, or health information related to travel to countries or areas of the US with Zika outbreaks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website has up-to-date information, including information for clinicians and tools for patient education.

- An overview presentation developed for clinicians is [here](#).
- Access to a variety of patient education tools is [here](#).

Did you know? Zika virus testing is covered under Medicare Part B

Zika virus disease is a nationally notifiable condition. Medicare covers Zika virus testing under Medicare Part B, as long as the clinical diagnostic laboratory test is reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of a person's illness or injury. For more information about how providers may submit claims for Zika testing, please review this [MLN Matters® article](#).