



TO

Narcotic Treatment Services Providers, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

REGARDING

ForwardHealth Will End Coverage for Some Non-Physician Phone Assessment Services

ForwardHealth Will End Coverage for Procedure Codes 98967 and 98968

[Alert 005](#), titled “Temporary Changes to Narcotic Treatment Services,” announced ForwardHealth coverage for Current Procedural Terminology procedure codes 98966–98968. This allowed registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and substance abuse counselors working in an opioid treatment program clinic to use real-time phone communication instead of face-to-face daily dosing contact.

ForwardHealth will end coverage for procedure codes 98967 and 98968 on July 31, 2020.

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION
98967	Telephone assessment and management service provided by a qualified nonphysician health care professional to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related assessment and management service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an assessment and management service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 11–20 minutes of medical discussion
98968	Telephone assessment and management service provided by a qualified nonphysician health care professional to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related assessment and management service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an assessment and management service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 21–30 minutes of medical discussion

ForwardHealth Will Continue Coverage for Procedure Code 98966

[Alert 019](#), titled “Opioid Treatment Programs Submitting Claims for Phone Calls Under the Five-Minute Threshold,” announced the following:

- Opioid treatment programs providing phone assessment and management services that do not meet the five-minute medical discussion threshold must submit required modifiers 52 (Reduced services) and GT (Via interactive audio and video telecommunication systems). Modifiers 52 and GT must be submitted with procedure code 98966 and place of service code 02 (Telehealth) on the professional claim.
- Procedure code 98966 is reimbursable for registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and substance abuse counselors.

ForwardHealth will continue to reimburse procedure code 98966 with modifier 52. ForwardHealth will also continue to cover substance abuse counseling provided to members who are receiving narcotic treatment services under the outpatient substance abuse services provider enrollment.

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION
98966	Telephone assessment and management service provided by a qualified nonphysician health care professional to an established patient, parent, or guardian not originating from a related assessment and management service provided within the previous 7 days nor leading to an assessment and management service or procedure within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment; 5–10 minutes of medical discussion