

1703 Maintenance Therapy Policy- habilitation

This benefit is added under section 1915i-habilitation and as a required Essential Health Benefits category, habilitation.

Division of Health Care Financing and Policy will reimburse for skilled therapy necessary for maintenance and development of a safety therapy plan. During the last visits of a rehabilitative treatment, the clinician may develop a maintenance program. The goals of a maintenance program are to maintain functional status or to prevent decline in function. The specialized skill, knowledge and judgment of a therapist would be required, and services are covered, to design or establish the plan, assure patient safety, train the patient, family members and/or unskilled personnel and make infrequent but periodic reevaluations of the plan.

1703.5A Coverage and Limitations

1. Evaluation and development of a maintenance plan without rehabilitative treatment- After the initial evaluation of the extent of the disorder, illness, or injury, if the treating qualified professional determines the potential for rehabilitation is insignificant, an appropriate maintenance program may be established prior to discharge. The skills of the therapist are required for the development of the maintenance program and training of the patient or caregivers for the service to be covered.
2. Skilled maintenance therapy for safety- If the services required to maintain function involve the use of complex and sophisticated therapy procedures, the judgment and skill of a therapist may be necessary for the safe and effective delivery of such services. When the patient's safety is at risk, those reasonable and necessary services shall be covered, even if the skills of a therapist are not ordinarily needed to carry out the activities performed as part of the maintenance program.
3. Documentation requirements
 - a. Plan of care must address a condition for which therapy is an accepted method of treatment as defined by standards of medical practice.
 - b. Plan of care must be for a condition that establishes a safe and effective skilled maintenance program.
4. If it is determined that the treatment does not legitimately require the services of a qualified professional for management of a maintenance program the services will no longer be considered reasonable and necessary and are excluded from coverage.

1703.5B Prior Authorization Requirements

1. All Maintenance therapy services require prior authorization.
2. Services are limited to ten (10) sessions every (3) three years per each recipient.

1703.5C Non-Covered Service

1. Services which are not authorized.

2. Services which are determined to no longer need the management of a qualified professional for the oversight of the maintenance program.
3. Maintenance program is not safe and/or effective.