



Technical Bulletin

Division of Health Care Financing and Policy



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Topic: Maternal Depression Screening

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To: Medical Facilities and Physician Practices

Maternal Depression Screening

The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy is clarifying how maternal depression screenings can be billed. Nevada Medicaid can reimburse providers who complete a maternal depression screen as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Early screening of the mother occurs during an infant’s well-child visit with a pediatrician. The screening can occur on the mother by the pediatrician. Postpartum depression screening encourages best practices and promotes access to care.

Background

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, an estimated 5 to 25 percent of all pregnant, postpartum and parenting women have some type of depression. Mothers with lower incomes are more likely to experience depression compared to the general population of mothers, with rates reported between 40 and 60 percent.

“Bright Futures,” the AAP-recommended guidelines for health supervision of infants, children and adolescents, advises postpartum checkups at well visits as a best practice for pediatricians. According to the recommendations, well visits during infancy should occur at birth, 3-5 days, 1 month, 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 9 months of age. Nevada Medicaid allows for up to three maternal depression screens to occur from birth to age 1.

The Nevada Medicaid Policy MSM 1500, Health Kids Program, allows providers to bill for the screening in addition to the well-child visit.

How to Bill

The postpartum screening is done on the same day as the well-baby visit and is billed under the newborn’s Medicaid number. The screen can only be billed three (3) times from birth to age 1 of the newborn. The table below provides coding information:	Modifier	Description
Code 99420	No Modifier	Health-risk assessment for postpartum depression (mother of child); for child up to 1 year of age

Educational Sources

Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) 1500, Healthy Kids Program:

[http://dhcfnv.gov/uploadedFiles/dhcfpnv.gov/content/Resources/AdminSupport/Manuals/MSM/C1500/MSM CH 1500 PACKET 6 8 16.pdf](http://dhcfnv.gov/uploadedFiles/dhcfpnv.gov/content/Resources/AdminSupport/Manuals/MSM/C1500/MSM_CH_1500_PACKET_6_8_16.pdf)

Maternal Depression Screening brief (American Academy of Pediatrics):

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/state-advocacy/documents/maternaldepressionscreeningguidance.pdf>

Bulletin on Maternal Depression (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services):

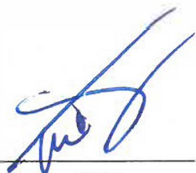
<https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib051116.pdf>

Recommendations for preventive pediatric health care (Bright Futures):

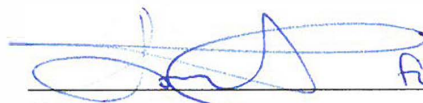
https://www.aap.org/en-us/documents/periodicity_schedule.pdf

Provider Types (PT) 20, 24 and 77 Billing Guide (Physician and Osteopath, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician's Assistant):

https://www.medicaid.nv.gov/Downloads/provider/NV_BillingGuidelines_PT20-24-77.pdf



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