

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director

Transmittal Number: 13-09

To: Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

From: Linda Elam, Ph.D., M.P.H. 
Senior Deputy Director/State Medicaid Director

Date: MAY 15 2013

Subject: Increased Medicaid Reimbursement for Primary Care Services under the Affordable Care Act

On November 1, 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final regulation implementing Section 1202 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which increases Medicaid reimbursement for specified primary care services, to 100% of Medicare levels in 2013 and 2014. The rates are effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2014. The increased payment applies to both fee-for service and managed care claims. **Physicians who are paid through another provider such as a hospital, clinic or federally-qualified health center are not eligible for the increased payment.**

To qualify for the increase in primary care payments, each physician must first self-attest that he/she is a physician with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine. In addition, each physician must self-attest that he/she is either Board-certified in an eligible specialty or eligible subspecialty and/or that 60 percent of his/her Medicaid claims for the prior year (or for new practitioners, the prior month), were for the eligible Evaluation and Management (E&M) codes specified under federal rules. Evaluation and Management codes 99201 through 99499 and vaccine administration codes 90460, 90461, 90471, 90472, 90473 and 90474 (or successor codes, where applicable) are eligible for higher reimbursement. However, the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) is only required to reimburse for codes that are already covered under the District of Columbia's Medicaid program. Thus, codes that are not covered on DHCF's fee schedule shall not be reimbursed at the enhanced rate. All other District of Columbia Medicaid program coverage and reimbursement policies related to E&M and vaccine administration services remain in effect.

The complete fee schedule is available online at www.dc-medicaid.com/dcwebportal/providerSpecificInformation/providerInformation.

Eligible family medicine, general medicine and pediatric medicine subspecialties include only those recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialists (ABMS), the American Board of Physician Specialists (ABPS), and the American Osteopathic Association (APPS). Refer to Attachment A of the Self Attestation Form. Physicians seeking the increased payment must complete Section II, IV and V of the Self Attestation Form.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) who practice under the direct supervision of an eligible physician may also be eligible for an increased payment based upon the increased Medicaid rate. (Note: If you are an APRN seeking the increased payment based upon your supervising physician's eligibility, your supervising physician must complete Section II, IV and V and you must complete section III. (Note: Physicians must complete a separate application form for each APRN under their supervision.)

On an annual basis, DHCF will review claims to verify that physicians receiving higher payments meet the requirements for such payments. A false statement or false certification on the Self Attestation Form may result in recoupment of any overpayments and prosecution for filing a false claim.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PAYMENTS:

Enhanced payment rates shall be paid for claims submitted on or after the date upon which DHCF receives the self-attestation form from an eligible provider. **To be eligible for enhanced payment rates for claims retroactive to January 1, 2013, an eligible physician must submit the self-attestation form no later than July 1, 2013.**

Note: Increased payments (including retroactive payments) will not be made until DCHF receives approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). DHCF estimates this will occur in late summer, 2013. Additional information about this program is available at www.dhcf.gov or by calling Provider Services at (202) 698-2000.