

**Kentucky Technical Advisory Committee on Therapy Services
May 22, 2014 Meeting Notes**

Advisory Committee Meeting 8:30 am-9:30 am

Members in Attendance: Dr. Beth Ennis

Members Attending via Conference Call: Teresa Justice, Leslie Sizemore

Others in Attendance: Mendy Pridemore, Diane Davis, Fred Tolin, Matt Fitzner, Nancy Redmon, Helen Homberger, Vaughn Payne, Mary Schaefer, Pat Russell, Debbie Salleng, Stephanie Bates, Rena Warner and Catherann Terry

Other Conference Call Attendees: Linda DeRossett, Pam Marshall, Lara Peyton, Lisa Bellefonto, and Michelle Sanborn

Purpose of Meeting: Purpose of the Therapy TAC; Review of Recommendations to MAC & Follow-up Constituent MCO Issues including Credentialing, Training, Payments and Survey Findings; Therapy Assistant rate differential

Introductions

Minutes and Overview

Dr. Beth Ennis requested that notes be emailed to all members for review to approve at the next meeting. She presented an overview of the purpose of the Technical Advisory Committee on Therapy Services, ie. to advise the Medical Assistance Committee (MAC) on Therapy Services.

Committee Recommendations to the MAC

Dr. Ennis reported Committee recommendations to the MAC were answered during the MAC meeting in March. Addition of the SLP Evaluation codes replacing the end-dated service procedure codes was discussed. Pam Marshall reported WellCare had worked with Marshall Pediatric Therapy and mentioned the need to correct 2014 services claims processed with 2013 rates.

• Therapy Rate Differential

Dr. Beth Ennis reported WellCare is the only Managed Care Organization applying the rate differential. The MAC has not responded to the Therapy TAC observation that the rate is not applied consistently since hospital claims do not distinguish a therapy assistants from a therapy practitioner by NPI and automatically pay the rate for the therapy practitioner. Dr. Ennis asked attending Managed Care representatives if MCOs plan to implement the rate differential.

Helen Homburger (Humana) stated she would take the question back to Humana. Attending Managed Care representatives for Anthem, Coventry Cares and Passport reported that implementation of the rate differential process had not been started.

• OT Exclusion

Attendees discussed the Cabinet's response to the OT rate exclusion question.

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Credentialing

Dr. Ennis reviewed solutions to some credentialing challenges. Pam Marshall reported no credentialing problems. Dr. Ennis reported that the Therapy Association Tri-Alliance is putting together a webinar and FAQ with info guiding enrollment procedures with a target date prior to the July MAC meeting.

Reimbursement Issues/Concurrent Waiver-MCO Enrollment

Committee discussion of payment concerns lead to discussion of concurrent MCO and Waiver member enrollment challenges. Pam Marshall will reach out to Sheila Davis to discuss Waiver enrollment process. Ms. Marshall noted varying periods for responses to recertification requests for straight Medicaid members and recommended increasing the recertification period for the new State Plan services capped at 20 visits. Dr. Beth Ennis stated process must be observed and proposed recommendations or questions for the MAC about concurrent MCO and Waiver assignment, 30 day recertification and a suggestion to create an alert or reminder to flag waiver member recertification. Rena Warner related changes conveyed to providers in a 2012 letter transitioning therapy services from MP Waiver to EPSDT. Pam Marshall reported the same issue is occurring with HCB Waiver services. Ms. Warner considered possible factors may not be certification but MMIS issues.

Autism

Pam Marshall presented challenges in providing services to children with Autism diagnoses and noted the 1 year waiting list for Waiver enrollment for children under 3 years old. Members noted that services must be reimbursed under Autism regulation. Teresa Justice noted that children with Autism diagnoses are in need of Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy services but do not qualify for waiver enrollment. Ms. Justice suggested sending the regulation to insurers.

Other Concerns

Meeting participants discussed adding ABA services to the Mental Health State Plan, potential ABA service rate and obtaining the name of the Mental Health TAC chair. Dr. Ennis advised caller participants to contact the Department of Insurance about concerns related to commercial insurance coverage and/or the Tri-Alliance Reimbursement Committee to look into other Constituent issues.

MAC Questions

Dr. Beth Ennis articulated questions to present to the MAC:

- 1) Why apply a 30 day interval to recertification of therapy services for children under 21 years old?
- 2) How can the process be streamlined to assure waiver children are not enrolled in MCO pending completion of recertification and FFS plan assignment procedures?
- 3) Has the Occupational Therapy restriction been removed from regulation?

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 19, 2014 at 8:30 am.