



NETWORK *Notification*

Notice Date: September 10, 2020
To: Indiana Providers
From: CareSource
Subject: Modifier 59 Mental Health Billing Guidance

Summary

CareSource would like to remind providers that appropriate modifiers must be used when billing for mental health services. CareSource aligns with [Indiana Health Coverage Programs \(IHCP\) billing instructions](#), as well as the guidance published by [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#).

Impact

According to IHCP guidance, IHCP reimburses providers for up to two individual sessions and one groups session on the same date of service. The second individual session must be billed with an appropriate modifier to indicate that the service was separate and distinct from the first individual session. As a general reminder, ***modifiers should be used on outpatient claims as appropriate; however, for institutional claims, modifiers are used, not to affect pricing, but rather to identify the level of service rendered.***

The Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative has clarified appropriate use of modifier 59 and how to use the modifier for similar yet “separate and distinct” services. By including the modifier for these occurrences, claims may be adjudicated without any need for a medical record or attachment to ensure the services are not duplicated.

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Manual defines modifier 59 as:

“Distinct Procedural Service: Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to indicate that a procedure or service was distinct or independent from other non-Evaluation and Management (E/M) services performed on the same day. Modifier 59 is used to identify procedures/services, other than E/M services, that are not normally reported together, but are appropriate under the circumstances.”

Importance

Submitting claims for mental health services appropriately, using Modifier 59, will help ensure timely and accurate payment of claims.

Questions?

For questions on submitting claims, please contact Provider Services:

- Medicaid Providers: **1-844-607-2831** (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time)
- Marketplace Providers: **1-866-286-9949** (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time)

IN-MED-P-223543

OMPP Approved: 9/8/20