



MEMORANDUM

To: Angela Evatt, Justine Springer, and Eva Lenoir
CC: Alyssa Brown and Nancy Brown
From: Laura Spicer, Charles Betley, and Christopher Yeiser
Date: November 5, 2018
Re: Medicaid Telehealth Originating Site Billing in Schools, FY 2017

Introduction

At the request of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), and with permission from the Maryland Department of Health, The Hilltop Institute completed an analysis of the use of Medicaid telehealth services in schools in fiscal year (FY) 2017. This measure assessed both the proportion of all telehealth services with a place of service code indicating a school, as well as the proportion of all services with a school place of service code that were delivered via telehealth. The purpose of this memorandum is to explain the methodology and present the results.

Methodology

Medicaid requires telehealth originating sites in school settings to be qualified school-based health centers (SBHCs),¹ and Medicaid SBHC billing instructions require a place of service code of “03” on claims/encounters.² Further, schools can only bill Medicaid as a telehealth originating site, and cannot bill as a distant site.

Therefore, the first denominator of the analysis identified any professional claim or encounter in the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS2) with a date of service in FY 2017 and a place of service code of “03”(school). The accompanying numerator includes any claim or encounter with a procedure code of “Q3014,” which is used to bill for the originating site fee. Because schools can only serve as originating sites, the analysis did not include distant site codes.

¹ <https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/SitePages/Telehealth/Telehealth%20FAQ%205.2.18.pdf>

² See block 24B of https://mmcp.health.maryland.gov/SiteAssets/pages/Provider-Information/SBHC_Provider_Manual_05.24.2018.pdf

The second denominator includes any claim or encounter during FY 2017 with the procedure code of “Q3014.” The accompanying numerator includes any claim or encounter with a place of service code of “03.”

Results

The analysis found that, during FY 2017, a total of 859,108 professional claims and encounters had a place of service of “03.” None of those claims or encounters had a “Q3014” procedure code for a telehealth originating site fee.

Similarly, the analysis found a total of 15,620 professional claims and encounters with a “Q3014” procedure code for a telehealth originating site fee. None of those claims or encounters had a place of service of “03.”

Since no in-school telehealth claims were found, the third requested analysis of listing the particular schools wherein telehealth services were delivered could not be completed.

To attempt to validate these results, the Department provided Hilltop with the list of all 318 registered originating site telehealth providers as of October 2018. In reviewing the list, none of the providers appeared to be schools or SBHCs.

Please let us know if you have any further questions.