

February 6, 2014
MB# 14-001

MEDICAID BULLETIN

Phys
OMP
MC
Hosp
Med Clin

TO: Providers Indicated

SUBJECT: Physical Medicine and Therapy Policy Update

Effective for dates of service on or after March 1, 2014, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will expand the place of service that recipients age 21 and over are authorized to receive outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapies (PT/OT/ST) services. In addition to receiving PT/OT/ST services in an outpatient hospital, beneficiaries can now receive these services in a physician's office or outpatient rehabilitation facility. Services provided in a physician's office or outpatient rehabilitation facility are limited to ambulatory therapies performed in an outpatient setting.

As a reminder, for recipients age 21 and over, PT/OT/ST services performed in an outpatient setting must be prior-authorized by the QIO, KePRO. At a minimum, physical therapy services must improve or restore physical functioning as well as prevent injury, impairment, functional limitation, and disability following disease, injury or loss of a body part. Occupational therapy must prevent, improve or restore physical and/or cognitive impairment following disease or injury. Speech language pathology must improve or restore communication skills and/or swallowing skills following congenital or acquired disease or injury.

InterQual criteria for outpatient rehabilitation will be used to evaluate medical necessity. The list of therapy codes that requires prior authorization is listed in Section 4 of the Physician, Laboratory, and other Medical Professionals and the Hospital Services provider manuals. KePRO authorizes the initial evaluation and the first four weeks of therapy upon request. At four weeks, a concurrent review is performed to re-evaluate the patient's condition and response to treatment. At that time the provider may request up to an additional eight weeks of therapy.

Medicaid Bulletin

Page 2

Requests for prior authorizations from KePRO may be submitted using one of the following methods:

KePRO Customer Service: 1-855-326-5219

KePRO Fax: 1-855-300-0082

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the Provider Service Center at (888) 289-0709. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Healthy Connections Medicaid Program.

/s/
Anthony E. Keck
Director