

September 29, 2022

Guidance For Behavioral Health Billing Code 90791

Dear behavioral health providers,

We've recently noticed billing code, **"90791 - Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview Examination"** is being used incorrectly in some instances so we wanted to send guidance on how to use the code correctly.

Providers may bill for one visit where psychiatric diagnostic evaluation or psychiatric diagnostic evaluation services are provided, typically at the onset of an illness or suspected illness. The same provider may bill for an additional visit for the same patient in the following instances:

- An extended break in treatment occurs (approximately six months).
- The patient requires admission to an inpatient status for a psychiatric illness.
- A significant change occurs in mental status requiring further assessment, and/or
- The patient has a previously established neurological disorder or dementia and there has been an acute and/or marked mental status change, or a second opinion or diagnostic clarification is necessary to rule out additional psychiatric or neurological processes, which may be treatable.

HPSM will allow the use of billing code 90791 for one visit every six months. Additional use of the billing code within a six month period will only be allowed upon receiving supporting documentation verifying one or more of the above exceptions.

Claims requiring supporting documentation must be submitted on a paper CMS 1500 claim form with the supporting documentation attached. Previously denied claims can be resubmitted with the required documentation attached. More specific instructions on rebilling claims are available on HPSM's website:

www.hpsm.org/provider/claims/update-claims

Note: *The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) inadvertently terminated billing code 90791 for some provider types. DHCS is working to correct this error by mid-October and we are reinstating the code retroactively to 7/1/22.*

Please direct any questions to HPSM's Provider Services Department at PSInquiries@hpsm.org.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community,
The Health Plan of San Mateo

9/29/2022