Benefit Change for Acupuncture

March 15, 2018

Dear Provider:

Health Share of Oregon, Jackson Care Connect, Columbia Pacific CCO and Yamhill Community Care Organization will continue to offer acupuncture coverage to our Medicaid members, following the OHP defined benefit parameters. The requirements can be found on the OHP website http://www.oregon.gov/oha/HPA/CSI-HERC/Pages/Prioritized-List.aspx or MMIS.

Beginning April 15, 2018, acupuncture services will be covered according to criteria in the current Prioritized List of Health Services. Acupuncture services will require prior authorization from the appropriate CCO for all clinical settings and provider types. Acupuncture services delivered without prior authorization will be ineligible for payment.

For members who need acupuncture for substance use disorders (SUD), please refer them to SUD providers for behavioral health evaluation and treatment.

As before, if you provide services represented by either code 97811 or 97814, we will pay for a maximum of one per claim. These codes, by definition, require reinsertion of needles (not manipulation of those already in place) and sustained one-on-one contact with the patient.

As a reminder, the proper billing and coding of acupuncture services does not allow the routine use of Evaluation & Management (office visit) codes. E&M codes are permitted with an initial encounter, but should be an infrequent occurrence thereafter. We still receive claims with inappropriate E&M billing and appreciate your help in ensuring that coding is correct.

Sincerely,

Douglas Luther, MD
Senior Medical Director, CareOregon