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Date: March 20, 2020

To: Coordinated care organizations
Fee-for-service behavioral health providers

From: Lori Coyner, Medicaid Director

Subject: Expanded telehealth coverage for behavioral health services

As part of Oregon's response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is working to ensure members of the Oregon Health Plan have continued access to quality behavioral health services. Access to telehealth for behavioral health is necessary during this critical time and providers and plans should expand telehealth opportunities. With ongoing planning around COVID-19, this memo:

- Clarifies telehealth (including telephone) policies for behavioral health services and
- Provides information on newly opened codes.

To support the expansion, OHA is submitting an 1135 waiver and State Plan Amendment (SPA) to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for approval and will provide updates when available.

The [fee-for service behavioral health fee schedule](#) lists the codes that include telemedicine reimbursement when billed with modifier GT.

- These codes list "GT" in the "Allowed modifiers" column on the Mental Health, Substance Abuse Disorder, and Peer Delivered Services tabs of the fee schedule.
- OHA is also adding the GT modifier to the following codes: H0004, H0005, H0006, H0015, T1006 and 90849.

Telephone services (CPT codes 99441-99443, 98966-98968) are now eligible for payment (retroactive to January 1, 2020) during the COVID-19 pandemic when the service is:

- Provided by a qualified nonphysician health care professional (98966-98968) or physician or other professional qualified to perform evaluation and management services (99441-99443) to a patient, parent, or guardian,
- Not related to an assessment and management service provided within the previous 7 days, and
- Not related to an assessment and management service or procedure scheduled to occur within the next 24 hours or soonest available appointment.

Members can receive telehealth or telephone services in locations chosen by them, including their home. Coverage of telehealth services and codes referenced in this memo is retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Questions?

If you have questions about OHA's fee-for-service coverage of telephone/telemedicine services, contact Provider Services at 800-336-6016 or dmap.providerservices@dhsaha.state.or.us.