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To: All Oregon Health Plan (OHP) providers
Coordinated care organizations

From: Nathan Roberts, Traditional Programs manager
Dave Inbody, CCO Operations Manager

Subject: OHP coverage of home blood pressure monitoring services during the COVID-19 emergency

During the COVID-19 emergency, to limit face-to-face visits OHP will cover the following supplies in conjunction with telemedicine visits.

- **A4760:** Standard blood pressure cuffs
- **A4670:** Automatic blood pressure cuffs

For both fee-for-service and CCO members, blood pressure cuffs are covered without prior authorization under Oregon Administrative Rules [410-122-0620](#) (Miscellaneous Supplies) and [410-141-3501](#) (CCO Rule Order of Precedence) if medically appropriate for an above-the-line diagnosis on the [Prioritized List of Health Services](#). Although the individual must have an above-the-line diagnosis, a pre-existing diagnosis of hypertension is not required to qualify for a blood pressure cuff.

Providers may bill for visits related to education, monitoring and consultation using the following codes:

- **99473:** Self-measured blood pressure using a device validated for clinical accuracy; patient education/training and device calibration
- **99474:** Separate self-measurements of two readings one minute apart, twice daily over a 30-day period (minimum of 12 readings), collection of data reported by the patient and/or caregiver to the physician or other qualified health professional, with report of average systolic and diastolic pressures and subsequent communication of a treatment plan to the patient

Why is this happening?

As health care organizations seek ways to limit face-to-face visits during the COVID-19 pandemic, we must ensure patients are getting the proper care regardless of the setting. Home blood pressure monitoring may be medically necessary for some individuals to independently monitor blood pressure from home.

What should you do?

Prescribing providers: Please use your medical judgment to determine which patients need to independently monitor their blood pressure from home.

- For fee-for-service members, the prescription must be filled by an OHP-enrolled durable medical equipment (DME) supplier. The supplier will need the prescription and a visit note documenting the medical need (the visit can be a telemedicine visit).
- Practices should designate appropriate staff to ensure proper cuff fit, provide patient education on how to take an accurate blood pressure, give patients instruction on blood pressure monitoring, have a

system to check-in with patients about their blood pressure, and establish protocol to determine when a patient must be seen in-person (at the office or hospital) for further assessment.

CCOs: Please provide standard and automatic blood pressure cuffs to members **without** prior authorization as described above and permitted by the [Order of Precedence rule](#); and ensure your prescribing networks are aware of this change.

- Please work with your contracted DME providers to ensure access to these supplies for members meeting the coverage criteria.
- Care coordinators should monitor patient need for referral to Intensive Care Coordination services as described in OAR [410-141-3870](#) (Intensive Care Coordination), including those with complex or high health care needs or multiple and chronic conditions.

Questions?

- **Providers:** Contact [the member's CCO](#). If the member is not in a CCO, contact the Provider Services Unit at dmap.providerservices@dhsoha.state.or.us or call 800-336-6016 (Option 5). We are available Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- **CCOs:** Contact Dave Inbody at david.g.inbody@dhsoha.state.or.us.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and the services you provide to our members.