

REMINDER: Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) Coding Clarification – S9480 and H0015

April 5, 2024

Dear provider,

BCBSAZ Health Choice has been alerted to the use of H0015 and S9480 for Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) services. Due to a shift in the utilization of these codes and concerns that providers who are billing S9480 do not meet the requirements for this level of service, we are providing coding requirements for these services.

Providers billing S9480 for intensive outpatient psychiatric services must meet the minimum requirements as described below:

- A. Treatment shall consist of a minimum of 9 hours of service per week, a minimum of 3 hours per day, conducted on at least 2 days and shall include, but is not limited to the following;
 - i. 1 session with the members treating Psychiatric Provider (Behavioral Health Medical Practitioner-BHMP) per week, and
 - ii. 1-3 individual counseling sessions with a BHP, no less than 50 minutes in duration, per week, and
 - iii. 2 group counseling sessions, no less than 50 minutes in duration, per week.
- B. A BHMP shall be available on-site at least 80% of the time during IOP Program operation, and
- C. BHP Caseloads shall not exceed 16 active members, and
- D. Group sessions shall include no more than 8 members and be facilitated by a BHP, and
- E. Intensive outpatient psychiatric services focused on the treatment of substance use and co-occurring disorders shall be consistent with the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria (3rd edition) level 2.1.

Providers billing H0015 for intensive outpatient alcohol and/or drug services provide substance use disorder and co-occurring treatment, in alignment with ASAM Criteria, 3rd Edition, level 2.1, must meet the minimum requirements as described below:

- A. Services may include individual and group counseling, medication management, family therapy, educational groups, occupational and recreational therapy, and peer support.
- B. Services are provided in amounts, frequencies, and intensities appropriate to the objectives of the treatment plan.
- C. Treatment shall consist of a minimum of 9 hours of services a week, conducted for at least 3 hours a day and at least 3 days a week.

AHCCCS is requesting that all contracted health plans provide clarification to providers that are able to bill S9480 and/or H0015, to ensure that IOP services are only being prescribed and used as specified above.

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