



Oregon Health Plan Electronic Memorandum

Date: January 4, 2013
To: OHP Coordinated Care Organizations
OHP Managed Care Organizations (for physical and mental health services)
From: Don Ross, DMAP Policy and Planning Section Manager
Re: Changes to primary care provider definition and primary care rates effective Jan. 1, 2013

As you may know, effective January 1, 2013, the Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP) will change the definition of primary care practitioner to meet a new definition set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). In addition, primary care practitioners who meet CMS's new definition will see an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Under the new definition, primary care practitioners include certain physicians with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine; and nurse practitioners and physician assistants under these specialty designations who work under the supervision of a qualified physician.

OHP Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs), and some Managed Care Organizations (MCOs - Fully Capitated Health Plans, Physician Care Organizations and Mental Health Organizations) must also meet this requirement for their provider panels.

This requirement does not change DMAP's fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), or tribal health centers (Indian Health Services or Tribal 638 facilities) because they are reimbursed at Prospective Payment System (PPS) all-inclusive rates. However, CCO/MCO reimbursement to FQHC's, RHC's, and tribal health centers must also incorporate the new CMS primary care rates.

What this means for you

For providers on your panels who qualify as primary care practitioners under CMS's new definition, you must pay the rates defined by CMS for selected primary care evaluation and management (E/M) and vaccine codes.

If you reimburse FQHCs, RHCs or tribal health centers at rates lower than the CMS-defined rates for primary care services, you will need to increase the rates to incorporate the new primary care rates.

The CMS-defined primary care rates have not been finalized yet, since they depend on the 2013 Medicare conversion factor, which may be changed by Congress.

As we gain further information we will send additional communications about the primary care rates, new or revised contract requirements and rules, and revisions to the capitation rates. We will also share our process for attestation for fee-for-service providers that will be required in order to qualify for the new rates.

For more information

This change is required by the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), as outlined in the [Federal Register/ Vol 77, No 215 published on November 6, 2012](#), and the [December corrections to the Federal Register](#).

For detailed information about this requirement, please see the following documents:

- [CMS Questions and Answers about managed care reimbursement](#)
- [CMS Questions and Answers about fee-for-service reimbursement](#)
- DMAP's [announcement to fee-for-service providers](#) about the CMS primary care requirements. It explains what changes we expect to make early next year and how to keep informed of changes we make due to the Jan. 1 requirements.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we implement this change. We appreciate your continuing support of the Oregon Health Plan.

Questions?

We will have more information available by the end of January as we receive further guidance from CMS. We will be better able to answer questions at that time. If you have any questions about this announcement now, please contact us:

- **OHP Coordinated Care Organizations:** Contact your OHA Innovator Agent or DMAP Prepaid Health Plan Coordinator.
- **OHP Fully Capitated Health Plans and Physician Care Organizations:** Contact your DMAP Prepaid Health Plan Coordinator.
- **OHP Mental Health Organizations:** Contact David Fischer of the AMH Medicaid Policy Unit at 503-947-5522 or by e-mail at david.h.fischer@state.or.us.