



Date: March 23, 2016

To: Medical electrolysis providers

From: Don Ross, manager
Medicaid Operations and Policy, Health Systems Division¹

Subject: Fee-for-service reimbursement of medical electrolysis services

The Oregon Health Authority is ready to accept requests from medical electrolysis providers to enroll as Oregon Health Plan (OHP) providers. We want to make sure you know that OHP will cover medical electrolysis only under CPT 17380, and only as part of pre-surgical preparation for approved gender dysphoria treatment.

Why is this happening?

Guideline Note 127 of the January 1, 2016, [Prioritized List of Health Services](#) states that medical electrolysis is limited to the following coverage:

Electrolysis (CPT 17380) is only included [on line 317 of the Prioritized List] for surgical site electrolysis as part of pre-surgical preparation for chest or genital surgical procedures also included on this line. It is not included on this line for facial or other cosmetic procedures or as pre-surgical preparation for a procedure not included on this line.

All services related to surgery for gender dysphoria require prior authorization (PA) as outlined in Oregon Administrative Rule 410-130-0200 of the [Medical-Surgical guidelines](#).

What should you do?

To enroll as an OHP provider, go to the [Provider Enrollment Web page](#) and choose the “Provider Description” for “Medical Electrolysis Provider” to find the forms you need. Complete and fax them to OHA.

Before providing pre-surgical medical electrolysis services as an OHP provider, make sure to request prior authorization for CPT code 17380.

To request prior authorization from OHA, follow the instructions in the [Prior Authorization Handbook](#).

- As supporting documentation, submit a letter from the surgeon who will be performing the surgery that confirms the electrolysis services meet the criteria outlined in Guideline Note 127. Fax the letter under a completed [EDMS Coversheet](#) to 503-378-5814 (Salem).
- In your request, include the total number of units for billing CPT 17380 (1 unit = 30 minutes) and the date range in which you plan to perform the electrolysis sessions.

¹ The Addictions and Mental Health Division and Division of Medical Assistance Programs are now united as the Health Systems Division.

- OHA can authorize services only for a 12-month date range. If you think you will need more than 12 months to complete the electrolysis sessions, you will need to submit a second request to authorize services outside the 12-month date range.

Once OHA approves PA for medical electrolysis, you can bill for the sessions using the authorized number of units. If you realize that you need more units than OHA authorized to complete the sessions, then you must submit a written request asking OHA to add the additional units to the approved PA. In your request, include the approved PA number, the number of additional units, and the reason for additional units.

To bill OHA for medical electrolysis, follow the instructions in the [Professional Billing Instructions](#).

- If you bill for more than one unit of CPT 17380 for a given date of service, attach chart notes to your claim that confirm the length of the session.
- For example, to bill for three units of 17380 for a session provided on March 17, you would attach chart notes for 3/17/2016 that clearly show the session was 90 minutes long.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, contact the Provider Services Unit at dmap.providerservices@state.or.us or call 1-800-336-6016. We are available Monday through Friday, anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (including lunch hours).

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