

Medicaid

Overview

Medicaid is a program whereby federal and state governments share the cost of providing approximately 58 million needy Americans with health care coverage. To qualify for the program, states must include hospital services, prevention services, skilled nursing and home health care coverage for adults, and prevention and treatment services for children.

Unlike Medicare, Medicaid has a state funding component and allows each state to write its own rules for medical coverage. Therefore, every state may define PA scope of practice and reimbursement rules.

Texas Medicaid Information

PAs are covered for medical services they provide to Medicaid patients. Although PAs are eligible to enroll in Medicaid, practices employing PAs may also submit claims for the services the PAs provide with the supervising physician's provider number and the U7 modifier. Claims for medical services provided by PAs are reimbursed at 92 percent of the physician fee schedule when they are submitted with the PA's number and 100 percent when they are submitted with the physician's number.

With the exception of prescribing durable medical equipment, all medical services covered by Texas state law including hospital services and first assisting at surgery may be provided to Medicaid patients by PAs. Physician supervision requirements follow Texas state law and PAs may see patients on their first visit to the practice as allowed by state law. Claims for first assisting at surgery should be submitted with the AS modifier and are paid at 12.8 percent of the primary surgeon's fee.

How can I obtain more information about Medicaid reimbursement in Texas?

More information about Medicaid reimbursement is available from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's Medicaid website: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/medicaid/index.html> or by calling provider information at 800/925-9126. AAPA reimbursement office staff at 703/836-2272, ext. 3218 or 3219 can also help answer questions about the Medicaid program.