



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

August 8, 2008

To: Community Based Alternatives (CBA) Providers and Consumer Directed Services Agencies (CDSAs) for the CBA

Subject: Information Letter No. 08-117
Billing for Specialized Nursing - Interim Procedure

Per Information Letter No.07-123, Specialized Nursing (SN) became available in January 2008. The service and bill codes were not operational until July 2008. Effective immediately, case managers will no longer authorize SN as Service Code 13. While the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) expects to simplify the SN authorization and billing procedure in the future, CBA providers will need to use an interim process until that time. The interim procedure will require CBA case managers to authorize two services codes, and the CBA providers to bill for SN registered nurse (RN) and SN licensed vocational nurse (LVN), using separate bill codes.

The codes are now operational and can be found at:
<http://www.dads.state.tx.us/providers/hipaa/billcodes/index.html#tc> .

In order for agencies to be paid correctly, they must bill Specialized RN under Service Code 13C and Specialized LVN under 13D. The rate for LVN SN is \$34.14 per hour. The rate for RN SN is \$49.90 per hour.

Specialized Nursing (SN)

To ensure that agencies are reimbursed at the correct rate and to have an accurate accounting of SN RN hours and LVN hours for service plan changes, DADS has created a new 3671-C Alternate. This form will become available on the DADS website on August 15, 2008, <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/handbooks/cba/forms/>. **The 3671-C Alternate should be used only if specialized nursing or the CDS option or both have been selected. Otherwise, continue to use 3671-C.**

The CBA provider documents the request for SN services in Section II, Column H, Direct Nursing Performed by CBA Provider, by checking the "Specialized" box. All nursing hours required to complete orientation (Section II, Item17), annual reassessments (Section II, Item18), delegation/training (Section III, Item 4B), and mandatory hours (Section IV, 5, B) must always be authorized as RN hours under Service Code 13C.

To be reimbursed properly, both RN (13C) and LVN (13D) must be authorized on the service plan. The CBA provider completes Section II, Column H, checks the Specialized box, and documents in the appropriate column to document the number of SN RN or LVN hours needed.

Specialized Nursing (SN) in the CDS Option

In the CDS option, the CBA provider continues to be responsible for completing the pre-enrollment, quarterly and annual assessments. The CBA provider documents the request for SN services in Section II, Column H, Direct Nursing Performed by CBA Provider, and in Column G, CDS Nursing Hours, by checking the "Specialized" boxes. The nursing hours required to complete orientation (Section II, Item 17), annual reassessments (Section II, Item 18), delegation/training (Section III, Item 4B), and mandatory hours (Section IV, 5, B) must be requested as SN RN hours in Column H, RN column and authorized using Service Code 13C. The CBA provider documents the estimated nursing hours to be delivered through the CDS option in Column G, RN and/or LVN column. The CDS hours will be authorized using Service Codes 13CV (RN hours) and/or 13DV (LVN hours).

Non-Specialized Nursing

Non-specialized nursing hours will continue to be authorized on the ISP as Service Code 13. Form 3671-C, Section II, Column H, RN column is used to request non-specialized hours. The CBA provider may deliver nursing services by an LVN and/or an RN. The CBA provider bills for nursing hours under Service Code 13, but uses a different bill code for LVN and RN on payment claims to designate the type of nursing services delivered.

Non-Specialized Nursing in the CDS Option

Non-specialized nursing hours in the CDS option are authorized on the ISP as Service Code 13V. Non-specialized nursing hours are documented and requested by the CBA provider on Form 3671-C Alternate in Section II, Column G, RN column. The CDS consumer bills for nursing hours under Service Code 13V, but use a different bill code for LVN and RN on payment claims to designate the type of nursing services delivered.

If you have questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Gilbert Estrada, CBA Policy Specialist, at (512) 438-2578 or gilbert.estrada@dads.state.tx.us or Elizabeth Jones, the CDS Coordinator, at (512) 438-4855 or elizabeth.jones@dads.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

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Director
Community Services

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