QRTIPS
Health Care Agency • Behavorial Health Services • CYS Quality, Review & Training

April 2009

Billing Project Together Meeting Medical Necessity

Dear Happy to Help,

I have a specific question about billing MediCal for meeting with a mentor from Project Together. Does this constitute a service that is billable to Medi-Cal?

Sincerely,
Extra Careful

Dear Extra Careful,

Thank you for raising this question! When you meet with a mentor to discuss your case, determine suitability of the match, and have contact with the mentor in order to monitor service delivery it is a Case Management-Target service and as such it is billable to MediCal. However, as always, ***how you document*** the service in terms of how your clinical perspective is implemented, as well as how information obtained impacts your clinical work with the client can make or break a note. A related documentation reminder is to check the Project Together box on #14 of the MTP (Coordination with other Services/Within CYS). That is the only place in the assessment paperwork that the notation is required.

Sincerely,
Happy to Help

Dear Happy to Help,

My MRT has been requesting that I re-write notes because she says the note does not document MediCal Necessity nor provide clear clinical interventions!

Sincerely,
Sorta Peeved

Dear Sorta Peeved,

I understand the feeling of frustration in passing the ever more demanding documentation reviews in place at this point. The emphasis on Medical Necessity being reinforced is the direct relationship with the (S), the impairments as a result of the diagnosis observed that day and the (I) which reflects how the impairments are being treated. Interventions that suffice, hands down, give the sense of being clinically purposeful and meaningful. As a matter of fact, concrete descriptions of interventions typically do not sound clinical. Thus, it is important to interpret your behavior into clinical terms for documentation purposes. I include some examples of how a rewritten intervention suits the documentation requirement:

Example 1 original: “Clinician inquired into reason the teacher thought client was misbehaving”

Example 1 rewritten: Explored client’s awareness of his classroom behaviors and the frequency of getting negative attention from the classroom teacher.

Example 2 original: “Inquired into the neighbors’ status….”

Example 2 rewritten: Explored the continued environmental issues that impact on client’s ability to complete the age appropriate tasks expected of him. Encouraged parental consideration of possible

changes that can be made for the client's benefit. Worked with client and parent to develop strategies for managing current stressors and their negative impact on client's functioning.

Example 3 original: "Empathized with his feelings of being misunderstood and therefore upset"

Example 3 rewritten: Explored with client how feelings of being misunderstood result in incidents of anger outbursts and acting out at school and at home. Affirmed client's increased use of coping strategies to manage his feelings resulting in a decrease in acting out incidents.

I hope these examples help!

Sincerely,
Happy to Help