



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sent on Behalf of DES/DDD

THERAPY SERVICE UPDATES

Target Audience - Qualified Vendors and Providers

Transmittal Date - 09/09/2022

The Division's new WellSky claims system conforms to the Medicaid National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI). The Medicaid NCCI regulations set daily maximum limits for each service and procedure to procedure limits. While most of the HCBS services are unchanged, therapy services are the most impacted.

As previously communicated in WellSky training sessions and various communications, Medicaid NCCI regulations prohibited a member from receiving a physical therapy session and an occupational therapy session on the same day. On August 30, 2022, the Medicaid NCCI regulations were updated and this limit is no longer applicable. The WellSky system has already been updated to allow claims for physical therapy and occupational therapy to be delivered on the same day to the same member.

The daily unit limits are still in place and remain unchanged. The daily limit for each therapy service according to the Medicaid NCCI regulations are:

- Physical Therapy - 6 units of 15 minute increments (equivalent to 1.5 hours)
Occupational Therapy - 8 units of 15 minute increments (equivalent to 2 hours)
Speech Therapy - 1 unit of untimed service, which means it can be any length of time

The Division recognizes some members receive feeding therapy and speech therapy on the same day, which causes conflicts with the daily limits. The Division developed the following billing guidance for situations where speech therapy sessions are delivered on the same day as a feeding therapy session. The Division has created additional rates that will be published later this month in the October 1, 2022 rate book where the rate will be double the normal rate for all settings and tiers in these situations. One example for speech therapy base rate in the natural home is illustrated below:

Table with 5 columns: Service, Unit, Type, Rate, Max Units. It lists 'Speech Therapy' and 'Speech Therapy Session with an additional Feeding Therapy Session' with their respective rates and unit limits.

Qualified Vendors will be required to submit claims for only one unit, but the rate will cover both sessions. These rates will be effective as of September 1, 2021 to allow for claims to be submitted through WellSky.