Initial Diagnostic Interview and Pre-Treatment Assessment
Frequently Asked Questions

What changes are being made to the Pre-treatment Assessment service?

Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care has issued a Provider Bulletin stating that the biopsychosocial assessment (H0002 and H0002-52) is eliminated as of November 1, 2014. This is based on changes in state regulations, and Magellan also instituted this change on November 1, 2014. The service commonly referred to as the Pre-Treatment Assessment (PTA) was actually a combination of two services [the biopsychosocial assessment and the Initial Diagnostic Interview (90791, 90792 or H0031-H0)]. While the biopsychosocial has been eliminated, the Initial Diagnostic Interview (IDI) remains in state regulation and will continue to be reimbursed by Magellan.

How has this information been shared with providers?

The Division of Medicaid and Long-Term issued a Provider Bulletin on October 20, 2014. This bulletin is available at [http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Documents/pb1435.pdf](http://dhhs.ne.gov/medicaid/Documents/pb1435.pdf).

Magellan notified providers via mailing that, in conjunction with the recent regulation changes, Magellan would remove the biopsychosocial assessment as a covered service and change the reimbursement rates for the Initial Diagnostic Interview and some outpatient therapy services. These changes also were made effective on November 1, 2014. The mailing from Magellan included information about the updated Magellan fee schedule. Magellan provider notification mailings were completed on October 27, 2014.

Prior to the recent notices, the Department of Health and Human Services held a public hearing on proposed changes to the PTA on January 30, 2014. The public hearing process included the opportunity for public comment. Magellan has participated in an on-going dialogue with providers and other stakeholders regarding the PTA and possible changes for well over a year. This is a topic that Magellan has discussed extensively in our committee structure as well as in town hall meetings across the state with our provider network.

How will providers be reimbursed for initial assessments?

Magellan mailed information to providers which included information on the revised fee schedule. These rate changes were effective November 1, 2014, and will be applied to claims for dates of service on and after November 1, 2014.

The updated fee schedule reflects increased reimbursement for the Initial diagnostic Interview (IDI) and outpatient therapy codes. Obtaining an IDI has always been a requirement for establishing the medical necessity of services rendered, and continues to be an essential component of the treatment planning process.
Additionally, as the assessment of a client is an ongoing and natural part of the treatment process, that continued information gathering is now reflected in the increased reimbursement rates for outpatient therapy codes.

**What if a member needs to begin therapy before a supervising practitioner can schedule an IDI?**

Client assistance program (CAP) sessions (H0046) continue to be a covered service and can be used prior to completion of the IDI, up to five sessions per year. CAP sessions can be used in instances when the availability of the supervising practitioner is delayed and it is necessary to engage the member in active therapeutic intervention prior to the IDI being completed. Also, CAP sessions are appropriately used when a member only needs short term intervention. Utilizing the CAP sessions solely as a means to continue to be reimbursed for time spent collecting biopsychosocial information will not be allowed. In all cases, providers should be familiar with Magellan’s guidelines for *Covered Services and Exceptions*, contained in Appendix B of the Provider Handbook. Providers must continue to maintain appropriate clinical documentation for all services rendered.

If a member presents to a provider in active crisis, it is not necessary to provide an IDI prior to serving the member; Crisis sessions (90839, 90840) can be billed without a prior-authorization and prior to completion of the IDI.

**What are the expectations for the content of the IDI on Treatment Record Reviews or other chart audits?**

Magellan will continue its long standing practice of making our treatment record review audit tool available to providers. The Magellan website contains resources available to educate providers on the treatment record review process. These resources, including the audit tool, are available at:

http://magellanofnebraska.com/for-providers-ne/treatment-record-review.aspx

We encourage providers with questions about the expectations for the content of the IDI to review these resources. The elimination of the biopsychosocial is a significant transition for providers. Magellan expects to collaborate with providers and offer specific education about IDI expectations when opportunities for improvement are identified as part of the treatment record review process.