

BCBS Announces Coding Policy Change

The MN PT Association is pleased to inform members of a recent announcement made in the December 2018 Blue Cross Provider Bulletin regarding Manual Therapy. This coding change improves payment for physical therapy services.

The old policy, which had been in place 10+ years bundled Manual Therapy 97140 when billed in the same visit as Therapeutic Activities 97530, which meant that only the Therapeutic Activities code was paid for when both services were provided during the same visit. The new policy effectively unbundles those codes from one another, and both Manual Therapy and Therapeutic Activities will be paid when provided in the same visit.

The MNPTA's Payer Advocacy Workgroup, as a workgroup of the Government Affairs Committee, which works closely with the Payment Committee has been having ongoing meetings with Blue Cross. In these meetings the workgroup has expressed that manual therapy is a valuable treatment procedure and should be paid for as a separate code. These meetings between MN PT Association and Blue Cross contributed to BCBS' decision to revisit and make a modification to the policy. We are excited about this modification to the policy and will continue to have ongoing discussions with Blue Cross. This is an important example of your membership dollars at work!