

## Therapy Cost Containment Notification FAQ

1. Will SWHP implement the unit rate for PT/OT/ST effective September 1, 2017 for all new authorization requests?
  - a. Yes, SWHP will implement all initiatives as directed by HHSC on September 1, 2017
2. How will SWHP handle authorizations that are already approved?
  - a. SWHP is currently ending all authorizations on August 31, 2017 and adding new authorizations for any date of service (DOS) from September 1, 2017 forward with the CPT codes updated to units or visits depending on new policy.
  - b. If the service is not covered under the authorization noted above, providers will receive a claim reject/denial if outside of this authorization structure.
3. Will all re-certified authorizations as of September 1, 2017 be issued by units for PT/OT or visits?
  - a. All new authorizations effective 9/1/2017 should be sent with correct CPT codes for units and visits. (See attachment for more details.)
4. Will the Prior Authorization request form change?
  - a. No changes (Per the TMHP therapy bulletin, there is an updated version of this form effective November 1, 2017)
5. Will agencies be required to request units or visits for PT/OT authorization request submitted?
  - a. Yes, agencies need to list units and visit codes as there are limitations on new codes (see attachment for more detail.)
6. Will agencies be required to submit plan of care or evaluations with ordered units or visits?
  - a. Yes, the evaluations and/or orders must be requested in units and visits; unless otherwise directed by the MCO.
7. TMHP's ST face to face encounter is 40-60 minutes. Will SWHP still accept a 30 minute ST encounter or will ST visit be required to be at least 40 minutes in order for us to bill for these services?
  - a. SWHP follows the state requirements as outlined within the policy. If the state of Texas denotes "anticipated to last 40-60 minutes" the assumption is that it will last 45 minutes minimum for the service since the increments are in 15 min (3 units). This question should be verified/clarified by the State of Texas (HHSC) and not the MCO.

8. Will SWHP require the UB modifier identifying if a licensed therapy assistant under supervision of a licensed therapist is treating and the U5 modifier if a licensed therapist is treating for all claims submitted?
  - a. Unless otherwise noted within the policy by the State of Texas, the use of modifiers should continue to be used as they are today (barring any exception to this policy as noted by HHSC.)  
This modifier allows the Medicaid claims administrator and the managed care organizations to distinguish between services delivered by a licensed therapist and those delivered by a therapy assistant.