

PSYCHOTHERAPY PROFILE

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I. ISSUE

What profiles should be developed for psychotherapy?

II. POLICY

A. Contractors are required to develop separate profiles for each class of provider which renders psychotherapy. The classes consist of psychiatrists, psychologists, and all others (licensed psychiatric social workers, MSWs, marriage and family counselors, pastoral counselors, and licensed psychiatric nurses).

B. Since there are differing coverage limitations for inpatient and outpatient psychotherapy the setting must be identified on the claim and the contractor must process them separately. Moreover, inpatient psychotherapy generally involves more acute care as well as more extensive services, including overall patient management and supervision of the milieu team. As a result of the above, charges for inpatient psychotherapy are frequently higher than charges for outpatient psychotherapy. In those states where these differences are common, contractors should also develop separate profiles for inpatient as well as outpatient psychotherapy. Effective May 1, 1992, contractors will no longer be required to develop and maintain psychotherapy profiles for inpatient and outpatient services.

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