

IHCP *bulletin*

INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS BT201149 OCTOBER 4, 2011



The IHCP to cover bridge appointments

Effective December 1, 2011, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) will cover bridge appointments for *Care Select* and Traditional Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) members, for dates of service on or after December 1, 2011.

Description of service

Bridge appointments are follow-up appointments after inpatient hospitalization for behavioral health issues, when no outpatient appointment is available within seven days of discharge. The goal of the bridge appointment is to provide proper discharge planning and to establish a connection between the member and the outpatient treatment provider.

During the bridge appointment, the provider should ensure at minimum that:

- The member understands the medication treatment regimen as prescribed.
- The member has ongoing outpatient care.
- The family understands the discharge instructions for the member.
- Barriers to continuing care are addressed.
- Any additional questions from the member or family are answered.

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Reimbursement

The following conditions must be met for bridge appointments to be reimbursed:

- Appointments must be conducted face-to-face in an outpatient setting on the day of discharge from an inpatient setting.
- Appointments must be a minimum of 15 minutes long.
- The member must have one or more identified barriers to continuing care, such as:
 - Special needs
 - Divorce or custody issues
 - Work conflicts
 - Childcare problems
 - Inability to schedule within seven days
 - History of noncompliance
 - Complex discharge plans
- The member must have one of the diagnosis codes listed in the following table. Bridge appointments may be appropriate for members with psychiatric diagnoses not listed; however, documentation must be maintained in the member's chart, indicating the reason the bridge appointment service was necessary.

Bridge appointment diagnosis codes

Diagnosis Code	Description
295.XX – 295.9X	Schizophrenic Disorders
296.0X – 296.9X	Episodic Mood Disorders
297.0 – 297.9	Delusional Disorders
298.0 – 298.9	Depressive Type Psychosis
299.0X – 299.9X	Pervasive Developmental Disorders
300.3	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
300.4	Dysthymic Disorder
309.0 – 309.9	Adjustment Reaction with Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood
311	Depressive Disorder Not Elsewhere Classified
312.0X – 312.9	Disturbance of Conduct Not Elsewhere Classified
313.0 – 313.9	Disturbance of Emotions Specific to Childhood and Adolescence
314.0X – 314.9	Hyperkinetic Syndrome of Childhood

- The appointment must be conducted by a qualified mental health provider, defined as:
 - A licensed psychologist
 - A licensed independent practice school psychologist
 - A licensed clinical social worker (LCSW)
 - A licensed marital and family therapist (LMFT)
 - A licensed mental health counselor (LMHC)
 - A person holding a master’s degree in social work, marital and family therapy, or mental health counseling
 - An advanced practice nurse (APN) who is a licensed, registered nurse holding a master’s degree in nursing, with a major in psychiatric or mental health nursing from an accredited school of nursing

Billing requirements

The IHCP limits reimbursement of bridge appointments to one unit per member, per hospitalization. As previously noted, bridge appointments must be conducted face-to-face for a minimum of 15 minutes.

Providers must bill bridge appointments on a CMS-1500 form using Current Procedural Terminology (CPT^{®1}) code 99401 – *Preventive Medicine Counseling and/or Risk Factor Reduction Intervention(s) provided to an Individual*, along with the HK modifier, to indicate bridge appointment service. The maximum allowable rate for CPT code 99401 with modifier HK is \$20 per encounter, as indicated in the following table.

Note: Fractional or multiple units may not be billed. Only one unit may be billed per hospitalization.

Bridge appointment procedure code

Procedure Code	Description	Reimbursement
99401 HK	Preventive Medicine Counseling and/or Risk Factor Reduction Intervention(s) provided to an individual (Bridge Appointment)	\$20

For additional information regarding billing guidelines, please refer to [Chapter 8](#) of the *IHCP Provider Manual*.

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QUESTIONS?

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