



PROVIDER ALERT

Billing for Substance Use Disorder Lab Services

May 22, 2015

This provider alert updates Medical Assistance providers regarding policies addressing substance use disorder drug-screening lab services. Please review the information closely to determine the circumstances in which providers may be reimbursed for lab services, and to whom these claims should be submitted for payment.

While additional provider-specific guidance is included below, **all** providers who deliver lab services are required to demonstrate the following credentials in order to receive payment:

1. A Maryland Lab Permit; and
2. A Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver or CLIA certificate.

HCPCS Laboratory Codes for Drug Screening

Maryland Medical Assistance follows the guidance of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding reimbursement of laboratory services. Because CMS has opted to use HCPCS alphanumeric G-series codes in place of the 2015 CPT codes for drug screening services, the Department will do the same. Therefore, providers should order and perform drug screening services using the codes listed [here](#) only.

G0434 Drug Screening Services Delivered by Behavioral Health Providers

Behavioral health providers with the appropriate Lab Permit and CLIA credentials may

be reimbursed for performing drug-screening services for dates of service on or after January 1, 2015, using the G0434 HCPCS code **only**. These providers must be enrolled with Medicaid and registered with ValueOptions as one of the following behavioral health providers:

- Certified Addictions Programs (provider type 50)
- Mental Health Group Therapy Providers (provider type 27)
- Outpatient Mental Health Clinics (provider type MC)
- Psychiatrists (provider type 20 with a 52 or 53 specialty code)
- Physicians with a DATA 2000 waiver (provider type 20)

Behavioral health providers may bill only the G0434 code for drug screenings; more complex lab services may be reimbursed through an approved Maryland Medicaid laboratory provider, as detailed below.

Behavioral health providers that have not previously billed ValueOptions for drug screening services should confirm that their provider file is complete and demonstrates the appropriate lab credentials. Providers may contact D’Nisa Joseph at d'nisa.joseph@maryland.gov to submit this documentation.

Maryland Medicaid Laboratory Providers (Provider Type 10)

Behavioral health providers may use any Maryland Medicaid-approved Laboratory for processing of laboratory work, including drug screenings. Labs must be registered with ValueOptions® Maryland to receive payment; therefore providers should check with their lab providers to ensure they have completed the registration process with ValueOptions® Maryland. For more information regarding billing procedures for Medicaid labs, please refer to the provider alert found [here](#). Billable drug screening lab services and their reimbursement rates can be found [here](#).

G0434 Drug Screening Services Delivered by Non-Behavioral Health Providers

Some providers may perform basic drug screenings using the G0434 code for reasons unrelated to behavioral health. In these cases, claims should be submitted to the appropriate MCO, or to the Medicaid Fee-for-Services system if the individual is not enrolled in an MCO. This applies to all non-behavioral health providers delivering somatic services, including primary care providers. For example, an obstetrician that performs a drug screen during an obstetrical visit would submit the claim to the MCO using the G0434 code. If they wish to perform a more complex drug screening using

one of the other G-codes listed above, this would be ordered through an approved Laboratory provider and billed to ValueOptions.

Providers such as pain management physicians with DATA 2000 waivers that offer both somatic and behavioral health services and therefore bill both MCOs and ValueOptions should align their G0434 billing with the associated service. For example, if a patient is present for buprenorphine treatment and a G0434 drug screen is performed, both the office visit and the drug screen would be billed to ValueOptions. If the patient is present for pain management services unrelated to buprenorphine, the office visit and the screen should be billed to the MCO.

Hospitals Billing Laboratory Services

If the hospital delivers a substance use disorder service is covered by ValueOptions, then ValueOptions is responsible for covering the associated ancillary services.