

2020-04-07 Town Hall Q&A

Question Asked	Answer
we have been getting rejections so far from medicare on evisits (g codes). haven't tried regular codes	that's because Medicare's local contractor, Noridian, did not have the G-codes in their system until April 1st. If you rebill it should be approved.
rejection code is CO-16 on our end	thank you!
I have been very hesitant to apply for unemployment or paid family leave (I left my job as a PT in CA to watch my son) due to the potential burden on the small private outpatient practice I work for. Is the employer paying out of pocket for that 2/3 wages, or is that coming from an "unemployment tax" that they have already paid? Also, does that increase the clinic's unemployment tax rate over the next few years? These are things I have been reading online, but I don't have a clear understanding of how it all works. Thank you.	The employer fronts the money for the federal benefits (paid leave and family leave) and hopes to have that amount forgiven later through the federal programs. The state pays the unemployment benefits and the employers are hoping that the federal government stabilizes that fund so that the employers' unemployment rating does not increase as a result of Covid 19.
Chuck and Paul, thx you for your advice regarding billing Medicare normal codes. Very helpful.	You are welcome.
I READ THAT AS A SMALL BUSINESS UNDER 50 EMPLOYEES WE CAN CLAIM HARDSHIP & EXEMPT FOR BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING FOR AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS GOING ON FMLA. IS THIS CORRECT?	You can claim hardship and will need to make a good case in order to be approved for exemption. You may also require for an exemption as a health clinic, according to the regulations and today's APTA email blast.

2020-04-07 Town Hall Q&A

Question Asked	Answer
IS THERE A MINIMUM FREQUENCY PER WEEK THAT WE ARE ABLE TO BILL FOR TELEMED? EXAMPLE: CAN WE BILL ANTHEM, BLUE SHIELD ETC FOR 2 TELEMED VISITS PER WEEK IF INDICATED?WE READ MEDICARE CAN ONLY BE BILLED OUT FOR TELEMED ONCE EVERY 8 DAYS.	The DMHC has mandated that private payers under their purview cover telehealth just like they would clinic visits, so if you think the patient needs 2 times per week you can do that. Medicare e-billing is only once per week, but remember some people are billing normal CPT codes because PTs appear to be intended to be in the Medicare telehealth regulations. They appear to fixing it right now, so that it's totally clear.
WILL PAYERS PAY THE 'NORMAL REIMB' RATE IF WE JUST BILL THE G CODE BY ITSELF...OR DO WE NEED TO CHARGE THE G CODE PLUS 2 OR 3 CODES TO GET NORMAL REIMB RATE?	The G-codes are just for Medicare telehealth. Go ahead and bill regular codes for private payers. Your billing office may add telehealth modifiers, if indicated. Please check IPTCA websites if you need to add modifiers for different private payers.
I'm not taking a salary either. However as an employee, I do pay UI taxes, so I went on Unemployment myself	You can apply for partial or full unemployment as an employee of your organization.
PPP may not pay for a full expenses, but your expenses will be lower as you scale back, and PPP should cover a lot of the scaled down expense you do have	Thank you! Great advice.
75% has to be on payroll	Not positive on that amount
Is anyone going to NOT pay property taxes due on Friday and ask for penalty cancellation afterwards?	Following Supervisor Gaspar's request to Governor Newsom, he has granted County Tax Collector's the ability to defer these tax payments. Please check with your County to see how they will handle this. The SD County Tax Collector reportedly received thousands of letters yesterday asking for deferral without penalties.

2020-04-07 Town Hall Q&A

Question Asked	Answer
<p>Do you have to keep paying your employees full-time salaries x 8 weeks with PPP loan in order to get it forgiven?</p>	<p>How much of my loan will be forgiven? You will owe money when your loan is due if you use the loan amount for anything other than payroll costs, mortgage interest, rent, and utilities payments over the 8 weeks after getting the loan. Due to likely high subscription, it is anticipated that not more than 25% of the forgiven amount may be for non-payroll costs. You will also owe money if you do not maintain your staff and payroll.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Number of Staff: Your loan forgiveness will be reduced if you decrease your full-time employee headcount. ☑ Level of Payroll: Your loan forgiveness will also be reduced if you decrease salaries and wages by more than 25% for any employee that made less than \$100,000 annualized in 2019. ☑ Re-Hiring: You have until June 30, 2020 to restore your full-time employment and salary levels for any changes made between February 15, 2020 and April 26, 2020. <p>How can I request loan forgiveness? You can submit a request to the lender that is servicing the loan. The request will include documents that verify the number of full-time equivalent employees and pay rates, as well as the payments on eligible mortgage, lease, and utility obligations. You must certify that the documents are true and that you used the forgiveness amount to keep employees and make eligible mortgage interest, rent, and utility payments. The lender must make a decision on the forgiveness within 60 days.</p>
<p>Is anyone charging telephone codes as well when talking to patients?</p>	<p>Not that we have heard of.</p>
<p>I reached out to our landlord to negotiate our lease. So far they seem fairly receptive but they did suggest that I apply for the loans (really??). I've already done that so we're waiting to hear back.</p>	<p>Goof for you! Most landlords are directing tenants towards loans, but some are giving a modest deferral of payments.</p>
<p>Insurances are also being fairly open to defer. I'm working with our major policies to either defer or finance. (Gen Liability; Prof Liability)</p>	<p>Yes, thank you!</p>

2020-04-07 Town Hall Q&A

Question Asked	Answer
PPS put out an info chart on coverage from different insurances and Tricare was listed if authorized through PCCC (pc3)	Thank you!
Now that school is out, can employee still use that excuse for family leave?	Yes, because school would have been in if not for COVID 19 and/or if their normal child care was not available (see regs in FFCVRA).
What is Paul' email address again?	paul@gasparpt.com
Do you add a telehealth codes to the regular codes	bill regular codes for private payers (plus modifiers as indicated), bill telehealth codes for Medicare patients OR consider billing regular codes for Medicare patients (no manual therapy or modalities, of course)
Money will run out later on the ppp	Likely true. Apply asap.
How to apply for fmla exemptions?	Not sure you have to apply yet. We believe regs are still being written. Most important thing to do now is discuss with the potentially involved employees.
chuck, what is your feeling about starting a new medicare patient by telehealth? I have two post op knee patients that need PT	This is a tricky one....telehealth was supposed to be for established patients but it appears that PT CPT codes were on the list of approved codes.
How many people have heard from bank about approving the PPP?	Very few. Many are in process. Some large banks have stopped taking applications and small banks are VERY busy. Apply ASAP!
when billing medicare with regular codes, have you been using POS 2 or 11/12?	Please email our sponsor, Monty Miller, at mmiller@momentumbilling.com , who will know the answer.
Medicare denial is co-16 they don't like cr and go on gcodes told us to do 95... we sent some rebills	Thank you!
Not go was supposed to be gp	Thanks!
Chuck you mentioned last session you would provide a spreadsheet for a break even point. Can you provide this?	Look at the NEWS section on www.iptca.org The Felder Breakeven Calculator.xlsx is under the COVID-19 Town Hall 2020-03-24 - use the COVID-19 Town Hall Files link. There is also the Felder Daily Calculator.xlsx under the Small Business Strategies post.

2020-04-07 Town Hall Q&A

Question Asked	Answer
Our office confirmed with Noridian they will pay for Teleheath with CPT codes Thre Ex, NMR, Gait, Ther Act, and Eval Codes have you confirmed also?	Yes.
If you did an E visit this week, How soon can you do a Telehealth visit?	Likely next week if you are including a telehealth modifier with the visit, but it's difficult to say how Noridian will set up their claims system.
This is Paul Hamel from North Coast Physical Therapy in San Diego. I did confirm with Noridian that they would pay for Teleheath.	GREAT!
Chuck, for Medicare so would you bill the Gcodes (G2061) and regular codes with the same visit/claim?	Just the G-code for an e-visit. If you choose to bill the usual CPT codes instead of G-codes because you are convinced the feds wanted to include full telehealth for PT, that's your decision to make.
Great Telehealth spreadsheet...thanks Chuck.	You are welcome.
I spoke to Medicare do not use the GP when billing the G-codes and do not bill CR either. Bill g-codes with only the 95 mod.	That's been the experience of others, as well. Thanks!
We also got rejections but they are now fixed.	Great to know!
I believe it's 2/3 of their pay up to \$200 per day.	Yes, thank you!
Max daily amout is \$200	Yes, thank you!