



# QRTIPS

Health Care Agency • Behavioral Health Services • CYS Quality, Review & Training

June 2013

## **Medi-Cal will not reimburse for the following activities:**

### **Billing for specialty mental health services while the client is in the psychiatric hospital.**

The exception to this is discharge planning. The progress notes must clearly be labeled “**Discharge Planning**,” reflect discharge planning as a stand-alone note and meet the following criteria: 1) direct contact with hospital staff; 2) arranging for out of home placement (not returning to the same placement/group home); and if applicable 3) consultation with receiving agency staff concerning transition to their new placement. **Scheduling aftercare appointments, collateral support services and consultation with own staff or updating SSA social worker are not billable under discharge planning.**

### **Billing for scheduling or missed appointments.**

**Billing for services that occur from the time that the client is arrested and throughout the time that the client is in Juvenile Hall.** This would also apply to clients who are “runaways” from their residence (i.e., home or group home.)

**Billing for clerical activities such as faxing, copying or any other activities that an office support person could perform.**

**Billing for services that are solely for educational or vocational activities** (i.e., tutoring, doing homework, employment searching for the client, downloading information off the internet for the client, etc)

### **Billing Medi-Cal for treatment services during the 30/60 day assessment period without a CSP.**

If immediate mental health treatment is necessary during the assessment phase, a “Non-Assessment Services Treatment Plan”, specifying the type of services, must be completed before any treatment is provided.

### **Billing assessment CPT codes past the 30/60 day period.**

### **Billing Medi-Cal for services with an excluded diagnosis.**

The exception to this is if the excluded diagnosis is rendered on the **first assessment** session because it has been determined that the client **does not have an included diagnosis**. Crisis interventions session **can never be billed to Medi-Cal** in cases where an excluded diagnosis is rendered.

### **Billing CPT codes for travel time between certified Medi-Cal clinics.**

### **Billing travel time for missed appointments.**

This includes situations in which TBS coaches travel to a location to provide services and the consumer is not available and no service is provided.

### **Billing for supervision of interns.**

There is a distinction between **consultation** and **supervision**. It would be acceptable to bill Medi-Cal when the primary therapist consults with the treating psychiatrist to clarify diagnosis or provide an update on the client’s treatment progress. However, a student intern discussing psychological testing approaches with the supervising psychologist would not be billable since this is clearly a supervision session.

Two interns consulting with one another regarding treatment approaches for the purpose of learning would not be billable to Medi-Cal.

**Billing for translations services**

A therapist translating sessions for another mental health professional, while of benefit to the client, are not billable to Medi-Cal.