



October 2022

**RE: Ambulatory Patient Group (APG) Billing Guidance for Hepatitis C (HCV) Treatment in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)**

Dear Provider:

Infection with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a major public health problem causing substantial morbidity and mortality, including cirrhosis and liver cancer. It is responsible for more deaths in the United States than all 60 reportable infectious diseases combined, including HIV and TB. Most new infections occur because of injection drug use (IDU). Although there are highly effective treatments, many people with HCV are unable to access them because of lack of provider capacity or stigma and discrimination. With the opioid epidemic fueling the rise of new cases, HCV prevention efforts, such as harm reduction services, medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), and innovative ways of reaching people who inject drugs (PWID) to ensure they receive HCV treatment are more important than ever.

OTPs play an integral role in [eliminating HCV in New York State](#) as they are uniquely poised to engage PWID and integrate HCV care and treatment into their service portfolio. People who use drugs and substance use disorder treatment programs have been identified, in the NYS HCV Elimination Plan, as priority populations and settings to focus HCV elimination efforts. The purpose of this letter is to provide supplemental guidance to OTPs on Medicaid APG billing for HCV treatment to expand access to care and support accurate reimbursement for OTPs.

Additional questions may be directed to [PICM@oasas.ny.gov](mailto:PICM@oasas.ny.gov).

**Physical Health Evaluation and Management Services (E/M)**

HCV treatment falls under Physical Health E/M. Physical health claims should be submitted separately from behavioral health claims utilizing the following Physical Health Rate Codes:

Type of Program	Physical Health Rate Code	Base Rate Upstate <sup>1</sup>	Base Rate Downstate
Freestanding OTP	1471	\$138.31	\$161.82
Freestanding IOS OTP	1471 <sup>2</sup>	\$138.31	\$161.82
Hospital Based OTP	1555	\$159.76	\$186.59
Hospital Based IOS OTP	1555	\$159.76	\$186.59

<sup>1</sup> Based on April 1, 2018 base rates.

<sup>2</sup> Physical Health Rate codes are the same for Integrated Outpatient Services (IOS) OTP's as with non-IOS OTP's

When submitting physical health claims E/M CPT/HCPCS billing codes should be used:

- 99202-99205:** New Patient, Evaluation & Management, no counseling
- 99211-99215:** Existing Patient, Evaluation & Management, no counseling
- 99382-99387:** New Patient, Physical Exam
- 99392-99397:** Existing Patient, Physical Exam

Additional clinical and Medicaid billing guidance for physical health services in OTPs may be found in the [OASAS APG Manual](#). **APG Service Category and Diagnosis Code**

APG reimbursement for Evaluation and Management Services will pivot off the primary diagnosis (Dx) code shown on the claim. When submitting a claim for HCV treatment, an HCV Dx code will normally be the primary Dx code on the claim. HCV Dx codes include:

Diagnosis Code	Description
<b>B1710</b>	Acute hepatitis C without hepatic coma
<b>B182</b>	Chronic viral hepatitis C
<b>B1920</b>	Unspecified viral hepatitis C without hepatic coma

When one of these Dx codes is coded as the primary Dx code on the claim, and an E/M code is also coded on the claim, the E/M code will generate APG 636 – Hepatitis without Coma. An E/M code should only be coded if Evaluation and Management occurs during the visit. HCV should only be coded as the primary Dx if it is the “reason for the visit”.

### Estimated Reimbursement

When submitting physical health claims with HCV as the primary diagnosis and an appropriate E/M code, the following reimbursement amounts are anticipated:

Clinic Type	APG Number	HCPCS/CPT Code	PH Rate Code <sup>3</sup>	APG Weight	APG Base Rate <sup>4</sup>	Estimated Reimbursement Amount
<b>Freestanding OTP Upstate</b>	636	99201-99205 99212-99215  99382-99387 99392-99397	1471	0.7899	\$138.31	\$109.25
<b>Freestanding OTP Downstate</b>	636	99201-99205 99212-99215  99382-99387 99392-99397	1471	0.7899	\$161.82	\$127.82
<b>Hospital Based OTP Upstate</b>	636	99201-99205 99212-99215  99382-99387 99392-99397	1555	0.7899	\$159.76	\$126.19
<b>Hospital Based OTP Downstate</b>	636	99201-99205 99212-99215  99382-99387 99392-99397	1555	0.7899	\$186.59	\$147.39

<sup>3</sup> Physical Health rate code for OTP and IOS OTP is the same

<sup>4</sup> Based on April 1, 2018 base rates.

## HCV Testing

Lab services for HCV testing are not the fiscal or contractual responsibility of OTPs. Testing laboratories should continue to bill for HCV testing laboratory services directly to Medicaid (or a Medicaid Managed Care plan).

OTPs may also, when appropriate, seek reimbursement for phlebotomy services performed on site.

## Behavioral Health Services

### Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)

DOT may be used to support the completion of HCV treatment. DOT includes the administration of a dispensed medication via oral or non-oral route by a medical staff person appropriate to their scope of practice; delivered in conjunction with observation of the individual prior to the administration and after as appropriate. For OTP's DOT could be delivered via Medication Administration and Observation.

**Medication Administration & Observation** is a clinic service and should be reimbursed utilizing the **Behavioral Health Rate Codes** (see below). H0033 (for those prescribed Buprenorphine) and H0020 (for those prescribed Methadone) can be utilized for administering medication for HCV. H0033 and H0020 may be coded more than once on a single date of service if DOT is occurring for HCV treatment in addition to the dispensing of buprenorphine or methadone.

Type of Program	APG Number	HCPCS/CPT Code	BH Rate Code	APG Weight	APG Base Rate <sup>5</sup>	Estimated Reimbursement Amount
Freestanding OTP Upstate	322	H0020/H0033	1564	0.1335	\$138.31	\$18.46
Freestanding OTP Downstate	322	H0020/H0033	1564	0.1335	\$161.82	\$21.60
Freestanding IOS OTP Upstate	322	H0020/H0033	1130	0.1335	\$138.31	\$18.46
Freestanding IOS OTP Downstate	322	H0020/H0033	1130	0.1335	\$161.82	\$21.60
Hospital Based OTP Upstate	322	H0020/H0033	1567	0.1335	\$159.76	\$21.33
Hospital Based OTP Downstate	322	H0020/H0033	1567	0.1335	\$186.59	\$24.91
Hospital Based IOS OTP Upstate	322	H0020/H0033	1134	0.1335	\$159.76	\$21.33
Hospital Based IOS OTP Downstate	322	H0020/H0033	1134	0.1335	\$186.59	\$24.91

<sup>5</sup> Based on April 1, 2018 base rates.