

November 13, 2012

*Name of the medical director*

*Medical Director*

*The Managed Behavioral Health Organization's name*

*Address*

RE: Changes in CPT Coding

Dear Dr.

As I'm sure you are aware, there are major changes to codes in the Psychiatry section of the AMA's Current Procedural Terminology that will go into effect on January 1, 2013. Since HIPAA requires that all insurers and providers use the current CPT codes for reimbursement purposes, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) has been doing outreach to our members to educate them about the new codes and the documentation they require so that they will be fully ready to use the new codes on January 1.

Under the new CPT coding schema for psychiatric services, psychiatrists who provide psychotherapy and medical evaluation and management will bill using the appropriate evaluation and management (E/M) code for the medical services they provide along with a timed add-on code for the psychotherapy. (See [www.psychiatry.org/cptcodingchanges](http://www.psychiatry.org/cptcodingchanges) for information about the coding changes.) We know that some insurers have contracts with psychiatrists that limit them to the codes in the Psychiatry section of CPT. Under the new CPT coding format, this exclusion will have to be eliminated.

As the APA district branch representing psychiatrists who practice in North Carolina, we are inquiring into your progress in adjusting your system to accommodate the new CPT coding. We look forward to having your assurance that there will not be a delay in the processing of our claims at the onset of 2013.

If there's anything we can do to help you with the process of preparing for the new coding schema, please let me know ([rhuffman@ncpsychiatry.org](mailto:rhuffman@ncpsychiatry.org), 919-859-3370), or contact Becky Yowell ([byowell@psych.org](mailto:byowell@psych.org), 703-907-8593) or Ellen Jaffe ([ejaffe@psych.org](mailto:ejaffe@psych.org), 703-907-8591) at the APA's national office.

Sincerely,

Robin B. Huffman, Executive Director  
North Carolina Psychiatric Association

Cc: Wayne Goodwin, Commissioner, NC Department of Insurance