

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 18.12
TITLE: ANCILLARY INPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(b)(1)(i), (b)(2)(vii), (b)(2)(x), (b)(2)(xiv), (g)(44) and (g)(47)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 6, Section 5.1

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

December 29, 1982

II. DESCRIPTION

A. Institutional providers of mental health services may bill one charge for all inpatient services or separately itemize all ancillary mental health services. These charges may be billed in addition to the room rate.

B. Customarily, individual and group therapy are the therapeutic services billed for, but the following kinds of additional therapies may be identified on inpatient mental health claims:

1. Social services group therapy
2. Counseling adapt group
3. Family therapy
4. Recreational therapy
5. Art therapy
6. Leisure time programs
7. Outings
8. Movies
9. Occupational therapy

10. Pharmacy
11. X-rays
12. Initial evaluations
13. Lab Work

C. Most institutional facilities usually include only room and board and general nursing staff services in their room rate charge and itemize the other services when billing CHAMPVA.

III. POLICY

A. Charges for leisure time programs, outings and movies are not considered part of a CHAMPVA approved inpatient mental health therapy program.

B. Itemized mental health services, other than individual and group therapy, which are provided as an incidental part of an inpatient treatment plan may be covered by CHAMPVA. This would include miscellaneous ancillary therapy modalities such as recreational therapy, and art therapy.

C. Other therapy sessions such as family therapy, social services group therapy, adapt groups and occupational therapy, may be covered when rendered as part of treatment related to an otherwise covered inpatient stay, and when provided by a CHAMPVA authorized individual provider.

D. Initial evaluations are considered as other medical services and may be authorized. They must be directly related to the diagnosis and/or definitive set of symptoms and rendered by a member of the institution's medical and/or professional staff (either salaried or contractual) and billed for by the hospital.

E. Other ancillary services such as pharmacy, x-rays and laboratory charges are payable and customarily billed separately on the institutional claim form.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Individual and group psychotherapy provided by a qualified professional (psychologist, psychiatrist, etc.) is limited to no more than 5 one-hour therapy sessions in any seven day period.

B. Therapeutic programs or regimens, which may include those services outlined in the policy section above, when provided by authorized individual providers who are employees of the institution, are not subject to the limitations for inpatient psychotherapy.

END OF POLICY