

Clinical Social Work

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PRACTICE UPDATE

PLACE OF SERVICE CODES FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

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NASW receives frequent telephone calls regarding place of service codes required on the professional claim form, CMS-1500, when seeking reimbursement from third-party payers. These codes specify where services are rendered, and may result in a denied claim if used inappropriately. There are more than 40 place of service codes used for reimbursement purposes, and third-party payers may have different payment policies regarding them. Thus, clinical social workers should familiarize themselves with the payment policies for place

of service codes of health plans utilized in their practices. The codes frequently used by clinical social workers in private practice are listed below.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is responsible for maintaining place of service codes. Clinical social workers who would like to comment on these codes and/or descriptions, should forward their requests to posinfo@cms.hhs.gov

| PLACE OF SERVICE CODE | SERVICE NAME | SERVICE DESCRIPTION |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 03 | School | A facility whose primary purpose is education |
| 04 | Homeless Shelter | A location whose primary purpose is to provide temporary housing to homeless individuals |
| 11 | Office | A location, other than a hospital, skilled nursing facility, military treatment, community health center, public health clinic, or intermediate care facility, where the clinical social worker routinely provides diagnosis and treatment of mental illness on an ambulatory basis |
| 12 | Home | A location, other than a hospital or other facility where the patient receives care in a private residence |
| 13 | Assisted Living Facility | Congregate residential facility with living units providing assessment of each resident's needs with daily, on-site, 24-hour support, with capacity for some health care services |
| 14 | Group Home | Congregate residential foster care setting for children and adolescents in state custody that provides some social, health care, and educational support services, and promotes rehabilitation and reintegration of residents into the community |

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| PLACE OF SERVICE CODE | SERVICE NAME | SERVICE DESCRIPTION |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 21 | Inpatient Hospital | A facility, other than psychiatric, which provides diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitation services, under the supervision of physicians, to patients admitted for medical conditions |
| 22 | Outpatient Hospital | A portion of a hospital that provides diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitation services to sick or injured persons who do not require hospitalization |
| 23 | Emergency Room | A portion of a hospital where emergency diagnosis and treatment of illness or injury is provided |
| 26 | Military Treatment Facility | A medical facility operated by one or more of the Uniformed Services |
| 31 | Skilled Nursing Facility | A facility which primarily provides inpatient skilled nursing care and related services to patients who require medical, nursing, or rehabilitative services, but does not provide the level of care available in a hospital |
| 32 | Nursing Facility | A facility which primarily provides skilled nursing care and related services to residents, for the rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons, or that provides health-related services, above the level of custodial care, to other than mentally retarded individuals |
| 33 | Custodial Care | A facility which provides room, board, and other personal assistance services on a long-term basis, and does not include a medical component |
| 52 | Psychiatric Facility-Partial Hospitalization | A facility for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness that provides a planned therapeutic program for patients who do not require full-time hospitalization |
| 57 | Non-residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facility | A location which provides treatment for substance abuse on an ambulatory basis, including individual, group, and family therapy |

Place of service codes are one of several different code sets utilized by clinical social workers in private practice. Others include the Current Procedural Terminology Codes (CPT) and the ICD-9-CM Codes (International Classification of Diseases-9th Edition-Clinical Modification).

RESOURCES

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2003. [Online]. Retrieved from <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/states/posdata.pdf>