



November 2021

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2021

The PPR office will be closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, to observe the Thanksgiving holiday. PPR will also be closed on Friday, December 24, 2021, and Friday, December 31, 2021. We wish all our clients and their patients a healthy and happy holiday season.

NEW PROCEDURE AND DIAGNOSIS CODE SETS

October is when the new CPT and ICD-10 codes start to go into effect. Note that each year payers are requiring more specific diagnosis codes in order to pay claims. Please do not use an unspecified diagnosis when a more specific one is possible.

WHAT IS AN UNSPECIFIED DIAGNOSIS?

Unspecified codes are ICD codes that do not completely identify the diagnostic procedures. For example, unspecified ICD codes may not indicate lateral anatomical aspects like: right, left, multilateral injuries, or other conditions.

DEPRESSION SCREENING IS A MEDICARE BENEFIT

Did you know that according to the WPS Depression Screening Fact Sheet, 1 in 6 people over 65 suffer from depression? Medicare wants providers to use the depression screening benefit in order to help improve mental health and general outcomes where mental illness is undertreated. Use procedure code G0444 (annual depression screening, 15 minutes). Medicare covers:

1. Anyone eligible for Medicare
2. Screening only, this doesn't apply to depression treatment, or a chronic condition caused by depression
3. One year between screenings
4. Furnished in a primary care setting
5. Up to 15 minutes of screening

Use this link for more information:

<https://www.wpsgha.com/wps/portal/mac/site/claims/guides-and-resources/depression-screening-fact-sheet/>

And remember, we're here to help you. Don't hesitate to call at any time for any reason.