

# Health Care Home Webinar: Understanding CHW Billing for Medicare and Medicaid in MN

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document responds to the frequently asked questions (FAQs) during the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Health Care Home (HCH) webinar on June 5, 2024, titled “Understanding CHW billing for Medicare and Medicaid in MN”. The FAQs on CHW billing were compiled based on emerging information on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicare (CMS) and MN Department of Human Services (DHS) Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) billing guidelines and informational resources. Please refer to MN DHS MHCP, CMS, and your organizational billing guidelines to validate the answers.

### Medicare Billing Codes and Guidelines

- 1. Does a dental visit count as an initiating visit?**
  - a. Medicare does not have a dental benefit, so dental visits cannot serve as initiating visits.
- 2. Who can be a supervisor? Is it only a PCP or a list, such as the MN legislation allows?**
  - a. The following provider types are eligible to serve as supervisors and billing practitioners under FFS Medicare: physicians, NPs, CNSs, CNMs, and PAs.
- 3. Can the initiating provider be a PHN/RN?**
  - a. PHNs/RNs are not eligible to serve as billing practitioners under FFS Medicare.
- 4. \$79 and \$49 is the billed amount? Not the reimbursed amount correct?**
  - a. It is our understanding that it is both the billed amount and the reimbursed amount for FFS Medicare. Medicare Advantage rates may be negotiable in the future.
- 5. Can you please explain the implications of new federal guidelines for FQHCs?**
  - a. Yes, this is our understanding, FQHCs can bill CMS for the new codes and receive reimbursement using an existing code G0511. For MHCP, CHW services are included in the bundled rate and therefore if submitted to MHCP would be paid at \$0.00.
- 6. If an initiating visit is 59 minutes long, is this still billable?**
  - a. The initiating visit is an E/M visit with the practitioner who will bill CHI services and identifies unmet SDOH needs. The E/M visit cannot be a level 1 visit, but otherwise the length of the visit would be determined by the E/M visit type. The first 60 minutes of CHI services furnished in a month is billed under code G0019. CMS CHW G0019: “Community health integration services performed by certified or trained auxiliary personnel, including a community health worker that is under the direction of a physician or other practitioner. The services may be billed for 60 minutes per calendar month in the following activities to address social determinants of health (SDOH) needs

that are significantly limiting the ability to diagnose or treat needs addressed in an initiating visit.”

**7. Are there any MN examples of CHWs in Emergency Departments? Or ED docs being the initiating physicians?**

- a. CMS requires initiating visits to be conducted by the patient’s usual primary care provider – the provider who will provide the patient’s continuing care – so ED providers are not eligible to provide initiating visits.

## Additional Resources/Information

- [CMS Health-Related Social Needs FAQ \(https://www.cms.gov/files/document/health-related-social-needs-faq.pdf\)](https://www.cms.gov/files/document/health-related-social-needs-faq.pdf)
- “Health Equity Services in the 2024 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule” MLN (<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/mln9201074-health-equity-services-2024-physician-fee-schedule-final-rule.pdf-0>)
- SDOH Risk Assessment policy guidance and discussions can be found in the following Physician Fee Schedule rules: CY 2024 (88 FR 78818) (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/11/18/2022-23873/medicare-and-medicaid-programs-cy-2023-payment-policies-under-the-physician-fee-schedule-and-other>)

## Minnesota Health Care Programs Codes and Guidelines

### CHW Education Services

**8. What was the code for other services?**

- a. Z71.89 -- "Other Counseling"

**9. Do you have standing order templates?**

- a. These are available to agencies that contract with CHW Solutions for consulting services.

### General Questions

**10. Can Indian Health Services (IHS) bill for CMS and MHCP CHW services?**

- a. The MCHP provider manual lists IHS clinics as an eligible provider type.

**11. Is billing reimbursement only for Face-to-Face or would telephonic also apply?**

- a. Both are eligible for reimbursement for both MCHP and FFS Medicare.
  - i. CHW Education Codes: 98960, 98961, 98962, 98962(U9)
  - ii. CMS CHI Codes: G0019, G0022, G0511 (FQHC code)

**12. In anyone billing CHW services from EPIC?**

- a. Yes, it is our understanding several organizations are billing CHW Education codes via EPIC.

**13. In 2023 MN legislation passed that expanded the types of providers that can get reimbursed for providing tobacco treatment, including CHWs. Can you speak to that?**

- a. We're not familiar with this topic.

## Additional Resources/Information

- Minnesota Health Care Program Provider Manual:  
[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS16\\_140357](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=DHS16_140357)
- MDH Health Care Home Webinar on CHW Billing, June 2024
  - Slides: [Understanding Billing for CHW Services in MN – Medicare and Medicaid](https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/hchomes/collaborative/documents/chwbillweb.pdf) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/hchomes/collaborative/documents/chwbillweb.pdf>)
  - Webinar recording: [Understanding Billing for CHW Services in MN – Medicare and Medicaid](https://youtu.be/qyvXTAbOcmM) (<https://youtu.be/qyvXTAbOcmM>)