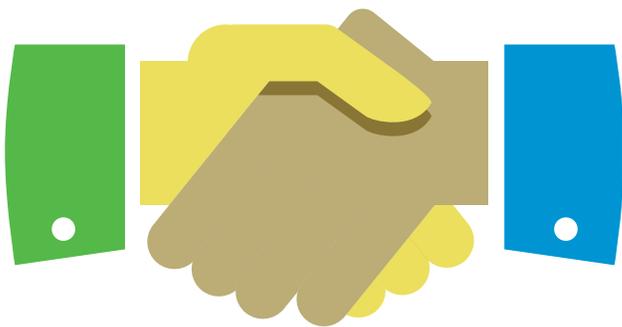




GREAT NEWS for your Amerigroup asthmatic and hypertensive patients!



Amerigroup Community Care has partnered with a pharmacy management vendor called Physicians Pharmacy Alliance (PPA). PPA is a medication management program that provides home-delivery medication services to a pre-identified list of Amerigroup members in your care.

PPA and Amerigroup are reaching out to members currently taking asthma or blood pressure medications to invite them to join this program. If a member consents to being enrolled in the PPA program, you will see a pharmacy request called an ATR (Asthma Therapy Request) or an AMR (Active Medication Request) faxed to your office. This is our ways of coordinating care with you, the prescribing doctor.

Please fill out the necessary information and fax back to PPA.

PPA also provides pharmacy therapy coordination with members during their monthly phone call. This is an opportunity for PPA to review the member's current regimen, understand the member's needs and communicate any new instructions from the prescribing doctor, including drug interactions and any new prescriber instructions PPA receives from you.

The HEDIS® requirements for asthma are that members on chronic asthma controller medications pick up and use the medications every month. PPA supports this goal.

HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

If you have any questions about Physicians Pharmacy Alliance, please call the Amerigroup clinical programs department at **410-981-4513**.

Case Management PROGRAM



Our Case Management (CM) program is a part of a comprehensive Health Care Management Services program that offers a continuum of services including CM, disease management and care coordination. Since many members have complex needs that require services across multiple providers and systems, a potential for gaps may occur in the health care delivery system serving these members. These gaps can create barriers to members receiving optimal care. Our CM program helps reduce these barriers by identifying the unmet needs of members and assisting them to find solutions to those needs.

Our case managers can assist in:

- Coordination of care
- Accessing community services
- Providing disease-specific education
- Facilitating any number of interventions to improve the quality of life and functionality of members along with efficiently using health care resources

If you need to refer a member to our Case Management program, call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730. You can learn more about our Disease Management Centralized Care Unit by calling 1-888-834-4300 and asking to speak to a Care Manager.

REMINDER! Reimbursement for well and sick visits on the same day!

When a child presents for a sick visit and is due for a preventive visit, complete a well-child assessment, in addition to rendering care for the presenting problem, using the appropriate CPT preventive code. When both sick care and preventive care are provided on the same day, use the applicable evaluation and management (E/M) CPT codes for the level of complexity combined with the age-appropriate CPT preventive medicine code. Modifier 25 must be billed with the applicable E/M code for the allowed sick visit to generate payment for the sick visit.



Affirmative statement about incentives

Amerigroup, as a corporation and as individuals involved in Utilization Management (UM) decisions, is governed by the following statements:

UM decision-making is based only on appropriateness of care and service and existence of coverage.

Amerigroup does not specifically reward practitioners or other individuals for issuing denial of coverage or care.

Financial incentives for UM decision-makers do not encourage decisions that result in underutilization.

We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to accept precertification requests.

Submit requests by:

Calling our Provider Services team

Faxing to 1-800-964-3627

Logging in at

providers.amerigroup.com/MD

HEDIS update

Each year as part of the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) Quality Study, Amerigroup reviews a sample of our members' medical records to measure the quality of care you provide. We are pleased to participate in this study as a means of pursuing continuous improvement in the services you provide to our members.

Your assistance is crucial to ensure that our data are statistically valid, auditable and accurately reflect quality performance.

No special authorization is required to share member medical record information with Amerigroup.

The form you obtain from the patient permitting you to bill for care is sufficient under HIPAA regulations. Section §164.506 of HIPAA indicates the routine form you have the member sign is sufficient for disclosures to carry out health care operations.

Section §164.501 defines health care operations to include quality assessment and improvement activities.



Prenatal and postpartum care reminder

Make sure your pregnant Amerigroup patients get the care they need.

- Test for pregnancy during the first trimester or within 42 days of enrollment with Amerigroup.
- Schedule the member for a postpartum checkup between 21 and 56 days after delivery, even if a cesarean section was performed.
- Help us meet the measure – use these CPT codes to help capture the information we need while complying with HEDIS requirements.

Description	CPT Code
Pregnancy test	81025, 84702, 84703
Postpartum care	59430 – Use 0503F Modifier

Measure body mass index regularly

Per HEDIS guidelines, adults 18 to 74 years of age should receive a body mass index (BMI) assessment at the time of an office visit. By meeting this requirement, you can help manage and ideally prevent obesity and related comorbidities.

Specific recommendations:

Measure height and weight at least annually and calculate BMI

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Incorporate appropriate nutritional and weight management questioning and counseling into your routine clinical practice

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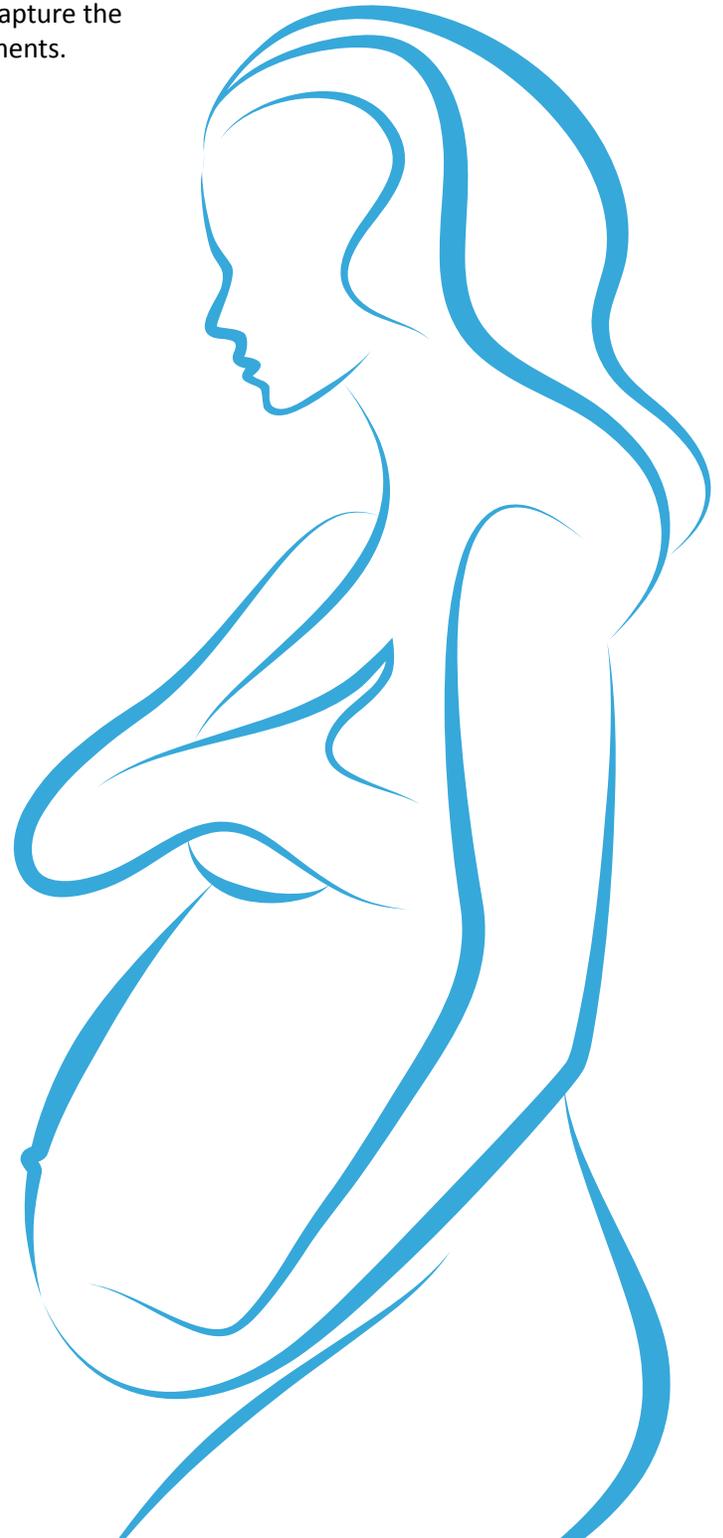
Identify, plan and integrate lifestyle interventions for the treatment of obesity into members' management plans

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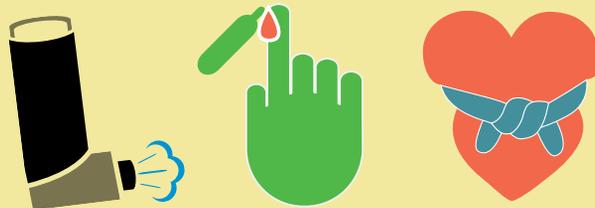
Document the BMI percentile for members younger than 19 years of age, which will also meet the following HEDIS criteria:

- BMI percentile documented as a value (e.g., 85th percentile)
- BMI percentile plotted on an age-growth chart

When completing an encounter claim, use the appropriate V code. Please note: the V code cannot be used as a primary diagnosis code.



Flu prevention and treatment saves lives



Flu season is upon us, and patients with certain chronic conditions, including asthma, diabetes and chronic heart disease, are at increased risk for illnesses and hospitalizations caused by seasonal flu.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates more than

200,000

PEOPLE ARE HOSPITALIZED

from flu complications annually, and between

3,000
and
49,000

DIE EACH YEAR

from flu-related causes.

An ounce of prevention

While the Centers for Disease Control recommends everyone 6 months of age and older receive the vaccine, flu shots are especially important for your high-risk patients. Encourage them to be vaccinated as soon as possible – a flu shot is still the best prevention method. Those at highest risk include:

- Children younger than 5, but especially younger than 2 years of age
 - Children between the ages of 6 months and 8 years of age who are receiving a flu vaccine for the first time will need to have two doses with at least four weeks between doses
- Adults 65 and older
- Women who are pregnant or expect to become pregnant
- Patients with certain chronic diseases
- Native Americans and Alaska Natives

Encourage your patients to get a flu vaccine. Please educate them about the risks of the flu and provide flu vaccines as appropriate. Remember, adult members with Amerigroup pharmacy benefits can get a free flu shot. They just need to show their member ID cards at participating pharmacies during flu shot clinic hours. Coverage for children's vaccines varies, so contact your local Provider Relations representative to learn more.

Antiviral drugs

If patients do get sick, antiviral drugs not only lessen flu duration and symptoms but decrease the risk for flu-related complications. Antiviral drugs, as well as many cough and cold products, are on our formulary posted at providers.amerigroup.com. Restrictions apply.

Stay informed

Find the latest flu updates, health care recommendations and printable patient education materials at www.cdc.gov/flu. Remember to protect yourself and your patients by getting your vaccine, too.



P.O. Box 62509
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2509

ProviderNews

Vaccine tips!

There will be a lot of vaccines given in the fall so let's go over a few reminders:

With Vaccines for Children (VFC),

Amerigroup follows the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) guidelines very closely. Please review the DHMH Physician Services Billing Manual for pricing and coding guidance.

The HPV vaccine

is a covered benefit for members 9 to 26 years of age.

Immunizations required

for travel outside the U.S. are not a covered benefit.

Administration codes,

like 90460, are not billed separately – The admin rate is included in the serum code!

Immunizations are a covered benefit

for **any age** though billing and precertification requirements may vary!



The material in this newsletter is intended for educational purposes only and does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement with respect to any company or product. Information contained herein related to treatment or provider practices is not a substitute for the judgment of the individual provider. The unique needs and medical condition of each patient must be taken into account prior to action on the information contained herein.