

Public and Tribal Notice
Wyoming Department of Health, Medicaid
Amendment to State Plan for Trauma Code Editing and Reporting

November 10, 2016

Public and Tribal notice is hereby given that effective January 01, 2017 the Wyoming Department of Health, Division of Healthcare Financing (Medicaid) will require providers to submit claims with external cause codes (diagnoses) for Medicaid clients undergoing evaluation and treatment for accident or injury related conditions. Wyoming Medicaid is requiring the use of external cause code(s) reporting to replace the trauma code editing and reporting mandated in the code of federal regulations. This change was necessary, as a list of priority trauma diagnoses was not published in the advent of ICD-10. A list of trauma code diagnoses was previously provided with ICD-9-CM.

To avoid denial of claims, Wyoming Medicaid providers will need to include external cause code(s) with any diagnosis in the ranges of A00.0 – T88.9 and Z00-Z99 (for accidents, injuries and health conditions related claims). By requiring the reporting of external cause codes, Wyoming Medicaid will not only capture trauma, accident, injury, or health condition diagnosis, but it will also obtain critical information concerning the nature and intent of the accident or condition. As a result, this will improve third party liability and coordination of benefits.

External cause codes provide valuable information surrounding an injury or health condition, provide answers to questions of how the injury happened (cause), where the injury happened, was the injury intentional, unintentional, or accidental, what activity was the individual engaging in at the time of the injury or accident, and what was the status of the person at the time of the injury (i.e. military, civilian work for pay, volunteer, or other). Wyoming Medicaid providers should not bill an external cause code as the principle, primary, or first-listed diagnosis. The external cause is not the reason why the Medicaid client sought treatment. Wyoming Medicaid providers should review the ICD-10-CM coding guidelines for use of external cause codes.

The proposed change will update language requiring the use of external cause codes to the Requirements for Third Party Liability – Identifying Liable Resources in Section 4.22 of Attachment 4.22A of the Wyoming Medicaid State Plan.

Written comments or questions may be submitted to the following email:

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