

November 30, 2015

Psychiatric Observation - E2014-061 – Emergency Room Visits/Observation/Supplies in a Hospital Setting – Consolidated Policy

In keeping with the current policy, psychiatric observation beds should be billed using procedure code H2013 in order to be considered for reimbursement. Members should be covered for up to two consecutive days. During the observation period, the patient must receive:

- A physical examination.
- History and psychiatric assessment containing recommendations for ongoing treatment.
- An initial nursing assessment.
- Nursing progress notes written each shift.
- A discharge summary.

A physician must admit the patient to an observation bed and discharge him or her at the end of the observation stay. When an inpatient hospital admission follows a psychiatric observation stay, the observation days should be billed on the inpatient claim. The observation bed days then become part of the DRG payment to the hospital.

Sincerely,

Network Development