

**March 31, 2020**

### **TBS Group Hourly and Per Diem Services Added to BH Services Provided via Telehealth**

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) is adding Medicaid coverage for Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS) group – hourly and per diem (“day treatment”) rendered via telehealth. Medicaid coverage is effective for dates of service on or after March 9, 2020. This is an update to the MITS Bits issued on March 20, 2020 “Emergency Rules Expand Access to Telehealth Services.”

TBS group service - hourly and per diem (“day treatment”) are described in Ohio Administrative Code rule (OAC) 5160-27-06. The service descriptions and billing codes affected by this policy change are:

- TBS group service (day treatment) up to two hours – H2012 with all modifiers
- TBS group service (day treatment) per diem – H2020 with all modifiers

For a more detailed description of the expanded definition of telehealth, which includes asynchronous activities that do not have both audio and video elements, please see the [March 20, 2020, MITS Bits](#). Some examples of these asynchronous activities include telephone calls, images transmitted via facsimile machine, and electronic mail.

ODM and OhioMHAS recognize unique challenges of delivering services via telehealth in group and residential settings – including TBS group service - hourly and per diem (day treatment), SUD intensive outpatient and partial hospitalization, as well as SUD residential. When delivering these services via telehealth, providers should consider the following:

- Use professional clinical judgement to evaluate each setting and individual client strengths and needs to assure services delivered via telehealth maintain therapeutic value.
- The determination of the clinical appropriateness of telehealth service delivery in group and residential settings should be client-centered and meet the individualized treatment needs and capacity of the client being served.
- Maintain confidential space on the part of the provider and the client while delivering the service.
- Although practitioners may be in remote locations, onsite monitoring of the telehealth services may be needed in certain settings for some individuals.

- Consider the appropriate duration of services in the context of telehealth delivery methods. For example, for some clients, it may be more beneficial to split sessions into smaller increments throughout a day.

Until further notice, TBS group service – hourly and per diem (“day treatment”) rendered via telehealth should be billed in accordance with the Medicaid Claims Submission guidance provided in the [March 20, 2020, MITS BITS](#).

**For more information on Behavioral Health Medicaid Redesign, visit <http://bh.medicaid.ohio.gov>. We value your feedback and questions. Submit inquiries [HERE](#).**

