

Updated Only for Logo and Branding

Provider Notice

To: Family Based Mental Health Providers
From: Donald W. Stiffler, M.S., Provider Relations Manager
Date: July 10, 2008
Subject: FBMH 08 000 Clarification of Family-Based Mental Health Services
Billing for Travel Time

This clarification is being provided due to some incorrect communication that may have contributed to confusion regarding allowable billing for transportation for Family-based Mental Health Services. PerformCare continues to apply the guidelines as first developed by the Mental Health Bulletin Number OMH091-19 which was issued February 27, 1992 with the subject description, "Transmittal of General Family Based Mental Health Services Program Issues."

The Bulletin provides additional clarification regarding when transportation is and is not an allowable cost, as indicated in the following excerpt from the Bulletin:

Question 46. If individual team members are traveling from different places of origin or in individual cars to provide a team delivered service, how do you bill for this service?

Answer - Since salaries and mileage for all staff are items included in the development of the rate for FBMH, invoicing should only be submitted to account for the one person who travelled the farthest. Travel time should be included in the total amount of time spent in a specific activity. You cannot bill for the travel of more than one team member per team delivered service contact with the same family.

Question 47. If a client and/or their family is not available for a contact, can you bill?

Answer - If there is a documented, planned appointment, the team or team member traveling to that appointment may bill MA for the total amount of the travel time. No time is permitted reimbursable to sit and wait for the contact to arrive. The procedure code billed would be the code of the intended contact. If there is no scheduled appointment and the team or team member is "dropping by" when no one is home, you may not bill for services.

Question 57. Can we bill for travel time for an appointment with the family when the family does not show?

Answer - Yes, if the family had an appointment and the clinical record documents the amount of time spent in travel. Billing would be done under the procedure codes intended for the purpose of the contact.

Please contact your Provider Relations Representative if you have any further questions.