



Title:	SUD Intensive Outpatient Program during COVID-19	Code:	H0015U5
Type:	In-Lieu Of Service	Group Code:	N/A
Effective Date:	03-10-20	Units:	1 unit= 1 week

Service Description
<p>SUD Intensive Outpatient Program during COVID-19 is an intensive outpatient program that includes individual and group addiction activities and services that are designed to assist adult and adolescent beneficiaries to begin recovery and learn skills for recovery maintenance. During the COVID-19 pandemic this service and the needed supports will be provided through telephone and video connection, as clinically appropriate. Partners is in the process of purchasing cell phones with data plans for members. Priority will be given to members in enhanced services.</p> <p>Service will be converted to a weekly rate to reduce administrative burden and increase individualized clinical home support at member driven hours that total a minimum of 3 to a maximum of 9 hours/week over 3-7 days, with a targeted length of stay of 90 days, or later, based on Partners response to state of emergency such as COVID-19 and based on medical necessity.</p>

Population to Be Served
<p>SUD Intensive Outpatient Program during COVID-19 will provide virtual (telephonic and video) group and individual therapeutic interventions to promote recovery while maintaining the safety of members during the current pandemic. In addition to the clinical services provided, this program encourages participation in local 12-step virtual group meetings, increasing the member's ability to live in the community, and decrease recidivism to jail. Other treatment plan goals include increasing access to healthcare and working on a plan for employment following the COVID-19 crisis (i.e. exploring career interests, completing job resumes, etc.).</p>

Entrance Process
<p>Admission Criteria</p> <p>The beneficiary is eligible for this service when ALL the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. there is a substance use disorder diagnosis present; and b. the beneficiary meets ASAM Level 2.1 criteria.

Utilization Management

Continued Service Criteria

The beneficiary is eligible to continue this service if the desired outcome or level of functioning has not been restored, improved, or sustained over the time frame outlined in the beneficiary's clinical documentation or the beneficiary continues to be at risk for relapse based on history or the tenuous nature of the functional gains or any one of the following applies:

The beneficiary:

- a. has achieved positive life outcomes that support stable and ongoing recovery, and additional treatment goals are indicated;
- b. is making satisfactory progress toward meeting goals;
- c. is making some progress, but specific interventions need to be modified so that greater gains, which are consistent with the beneficiary's premorbid level of functioning, are possible or can be achieved;
- d. is not making progress; or
- e. is regressing

Discharge Criteria

The beneficiary meets the criteria for discharge if any of the following applies:

- a. the level of functioning has improved, or
- b. no longer benefits, or
- c. has the ability to function at this level of care

AND

ANY of the following applies;

The beneficiary:

- a. has achieved positive life outcomes that support stable and ongoing recovery;
- b. is not making progress, or is regressing and all realistic treatment options have been exhausted indicating a need for more intensive services; or
- c. no longer wishes to receive SAIOP services.

Providers are encouraged to err on the side of caution related to any potential discharges during the COVID-19 crisis, recognizing that many community and social supports may not be readily available.

Service Documentation

The minimum standard is a weekly service note that includes:

- a. the beneficiary's name;
- b. Medicaid or NCHC identification number;
- c. date(s) of service;
- d. purpose of contact;
- e. describes the provider's interventions, the time spent performing the intervention, the effectiveness of interventions; and
- f. the signature and credentials of the staff providing the service. A documented discharge plan shall be discussed with the beneficiary and included in the record.

Unit of Service: Weekly case rate.

Units of Service per Person: Weekly case rate for three days of service during seven-day period

Prior Approval Requirements: No prior approval is needed for this service, and all authorization requirements are waived until after COVID-19 crisis is mitigated.

Eligibility Criteria

Individuals, ages 14 years and older, with any Substance Use Disorder and the ability to connect virtually.

Service Exclusions

Service Exclusions:

SUD IOP cannot be billed during the same authorization as SA Comprehensive Outpatient Treatment, all detoxification services levels, Non-Medical Community Residential Treatment or Medically Monitored Community Residential Treatment

Treatment Program Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives

SUD Intensive Outpatient Program can be designed for homogenous groups of beneficiaries e.g., pregnant women, and women and their children; individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders; individuals with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); or individuals with similar cognitive levels of functioning. Virtual (telephonic and/or video) group counseling shall be provided each day SUD Intensive Outpatient Program services are offered and must be provided for 2 of the 3 hours. One 30-minute session of virtual individual counseling must be provided once weekly for a minimum of 30 minutes. Other activities include homework assignments from the chosen treatment modality (i.e. Seeking Safety, Matrix, etc.) and psychosocial educational videos from YouTube with discussion topics.

Additional activities to support members may include case management and peer support services. These services will assist members with recovery skills, including but not limited to, coping skills, daily living skills, and virtual social interaction.

Staffing Requirements

Persons who meet the requirements specified for CCS, LCAS, LCAS-A, and CSAC under Article 5C may deliver SUD Intensive Outpatient. The program must be under the clinical supervision of a CCS or a LCAS who is readily available at a minimum, telephonically, for staff during staff working hours. Services may also be provided by staff who meet the requirements specified for QP or AP status for Substance Abuse according to 10A NCAC 27G .0104, under the supervision of a CCS or LCAS.

The maximum staff-to-beneficiary ratio is not more than 12 adult beneficiaries to 1 QP.

The ratio for adolescents shall be 1:6.

Paraprofessional level providers who meet the requirements for Paraprofessional status according to 10A NCAC 27G .0104 and who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for the population and age to provide services may deliver SUD Intensive Outpatient, under the supervision of a CCS or LCAS. Paraprofessional level providers may not provide services in lieu of service provision by a CCS, LCAS, LCAS-A, CSAC, or QP.

Expected Outcomes

The expected outcome of SAIOP is abstinence.

Secondary outcomes include:

- a. sustained improvement in health and psychosocial functioning;
- b. reduction in any psychiatric symptoms (if present),
- c. reduction in public health or safety concerns; and
- d. reduction in the risk of relapse as evidenced by improvement in empirically supported modifiable relapse risk factors.

Targeted Length of Service

90 days, or later, based on Partners response to a state of emergency such as COVID-19 and medical necessity.