



Memo 12-08

TO: Independence Blue Cross and Keystone Health Plan East participating outpatient diabetic education programs in Pennsylvania

FROM: Linda Paterson
Senior Director, Network Field Services

DATE: October 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Billing requirements for outpatient diabetic education

As you are aware, diabetic education is a benefit covered by Independence Blue Cross and Keystone Health Plan East (KHPE) in the treatment of diabetes through education and counseling.

As in the past, a primary care physician (PCP) referral is required for KHPE members. Members with Point-of-Service (POS) coverage may exercise their self-referral option, in which case no PCP referral is required. However, POS members are responsible for obtaining patient care management precertification. There are no precertification requirements for Personal Choice[®], Federal Employee Program (FEP), Traditional (Indemnity), or CMM products, although a physician's order/prescription is required.

As a reminder, when billing for diabetic education, the revenue code 942, the HCPCS code, the number of units, and a diabetic diagnosis must be included on the UB-04. For correct billing and reimbursement purposes, one unit is equal to one session. A unit/session is defined as one of the following:

- an initial baseline assessment;
- an individual session, which is to be a minimum of one hour in duration;
- a group session, which is to be a minimum of two hours in duration.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact your Network Coordinator.

We encourage you to share this information with appropriate members of your staff.