CLINICIANS UNITED 1/4/21

MINUTES

Present on Zoom: David Holt, Christine Miller, Sheila McDonough, Ann LaBrache, Jane Borgursky, Lynn Stanley

The primary agenda for this meeting was legislation.

The SB115 Study Committee had recommended that therapists be allowed to bill for collaboration “as medical doctors and ARNPs” can do. Ann LaBrache and Christine Miller agreed to work on finding out how physicians complete this billing, how insurance pays and what billing codes are used. Concord Hospital billing office, Bedford Commons OB/GYN billing office, a medical billing service, a psychiatric office and Anthem were all contacted. As far as we could determine, the only service insurance pays for is an E&M (Evaluation and Management) code where the physician sees a patient and ON THE SAME DAY collaborates with another provider and bills for a maximum of 20 minutes for the extension. Medicare does have collaboration codes for medically necessary services only, but they do not appear to be used by behavioral health or reimbursed by commercial products. Behavioral health practices we surveyed charge patients out-of-pocket if a clinician attends a meeting, etc. Lynn Stanley thought that maybe Medicaid paid Mental Health Center staff for attending IEP meetings, etc., but no one knew how to check this and whether it was in a separate contract.

Both Rep. Van Houten and Rep. Reed have submitted bills regarding deleting the exceptions to our previously passed clawback bill. Hopefully these two bills will be merged. Lynn Stanley noted that NH’s clawback and telehealth bills were being used as models for other states.

It was noted that after December 31st permission to bill for telehealth where the client is a state where the clinician is not licensed is not acceptable unless the state where the client is residing has allowed it. Lynn pointed out that the risk of interstate telehealth is that insurance will panel large numbers in states where reimbursement is low and encourage patients to use those providers.

Applications for Group 1a (healthcare providers) COVID 19 vaccinations have been sent to providers. If you haven’t received one, the website is NH.licenses@doit.nh.gov.

The question was raised re: CEU’s and the requirement for “live training.” Lynn stated that the webinar counts as “live” if you can ask the presenter a question OR you take a post test. The webinar still has to be an approved workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Miller