

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE

February 4, 2009

EFFECTIVE DATE

January 26, 2009

NUMBER

01-09-02, 08-09-02, 09-09-02, 21-09-01
24-09-02, 28-09-01, 31-09-03

SUBJECT

Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP) –
Coverage of Outpatient Laboratory Services for SP1
Card Holders



Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary
Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is:

1. To announce that the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) component of the Special Pharmaceutical Benefits program (SPBP) (SP1 card holders) is expanding coverage of services to include specified outpatient laboratory services for SP1 card holders.
2. To inform providers of laboratory services in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program that enrollment in the MA Program qualifies them to provide and submit claims for covered laboratory services for SPBP SP1 card holders.
3. To provide instruction on how to submit claims for covered outpatient laboratory services rendered to SPBP SP1 cardholders.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all providers enrolled in the MA Program who provide laboratory services and those who provide services to persons enrolled in the ADAP component of SPBP.

BACKGROUND:

The ADAP component of the SPBP is funded by a combination of Federal Ryan White HIV/AIDS funds and state funds; the purpose is to ensure that moderate income HIV-infected persons have access to medical care. Historically, all ADAPs nationwide, including Pennsylvania's SPBP, limited coverage of services for moderate-income persons with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS to pharmacy services. Currently, pharmacies and dispensing providers, who are enrolled in the MA Program and have a signed agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, can dispense prescribed medications to persons eligible for SPBP and submit claims for payment through the Department of Aging's claims processor, First Health Services.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program at Toll Free Telephone Number 1-800-922-9384;
E-mail Address - SPBP@state.pa.us

MA Program Provider Services at Toll Free Telephone Number 1-800-537-8862; Option 4
Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap

The provisions of Title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006, established guidelines to support the use of Ryan White HIV/AIDS funds for HIV diagnostic and laboratory tests. Those guidelines include the following:

1. Tests must be:
 - a. Consistent with medical and laboratory standards, as established by scientific evidence and supported by professional panels, associations, or organizations.
 - b. Approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
 - c. Performed in an approved Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) certified laboratory or State-exempt laboratory.
 - d. Ordered by a registered, certified, or licensed medical provider.
 - e. Medically necessary and appropriate based on established clinical practice standards.
2. SPBP is the payer of last resort. Public and private payers such as the MA Program, Medicare, private commercial health insurance, etc. are considered the primary payers for covered tests and are liable for payment before SPBP will make payment.

The Department of Public Welfare (Department) determined that these guidelines are consistent with the requirements for provider enrollment in the MA Program and coverage of lab tests under the MA Program. In accordance with these provisions, the Department is expanding the scope of services covered under the ADAP component of the SPBP to include specified laboratory tests. Laboratory tests are a valuable tool in assessing and determining treatment of HIV/AIDS. Coverage of the services specified will aid in the decision making process with antiretroviral agents.

DISCUSSION:

SCOPE OF COVERED SERVICES - Effective January 26, 2009, laboratory services listed on Attachment A will be covered by SPBP. All laboratory services listed in Attachment A are active procedure codes on the MA Program Fee-for-Service (FFS) fee schedule. The Department will update the list of covered services when it publishes the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) updates.

PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS - All providers enrolled in the MA Program who provide lab services and submit claims for those services to the Department for adjudication through PROMISe may also render those services to persons eligible for SPBP (SP1 cardholders).

REGULATIONS - All regulations governing the coverage and provision of outpatient lab services under the MA Program will apply to lab services covered under SPBP with the following exceptions:

1. No Copayments – Lab services provided to SP1 cardholders are not subject to a copayment.

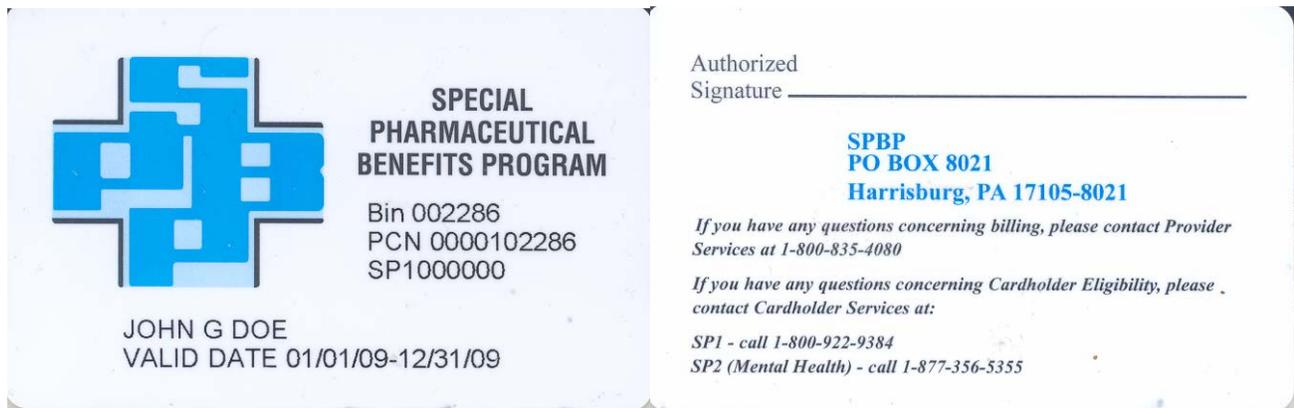
2. No Prior Authorization - Lab services that require prior authorization for MA recipients will not apply to those services when provided to persons enrolled in SPBP.

FEES AND QUANTITY LIIMITS - MA Program fees, quantity and frequency limits for lab services will apply to lab services covered under SPBP.

PROCEDURES:

SPBP ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION – The SPBP enrollee must present a valid SPBP identification card. A sample copy of the card is pictured below. SPBP is not linked to the Eligibility Verification System (EVS). Therefore, providers who want to verify eligibility prior to rendering service can contact the SPBP at the toll free telephone number, 1-800-922-9384, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or at the e-mail address, SPBP@state.pa.us

SPBP CLAIMS SUBMISSION – The procedures to submit claims for lab services rendered to SPBP enrollees are the same as the procedures to submit claims for MA recipients with one exception. Instead of using the MA recipient identification number on the claim, the provider should enter the SPBP identification number. The SPBP identification number is listed on the third line below the title of the program on the front of the SPBP identification card. It is a nine (9) digit number that always begins with SP1.



PROVIDER SERVICES - Providers who have questions regarding billing for lab services for SPBP enrollees should call the MA Program Provider Services at 1-800-537-8862, Option 4, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE: The telephone number listed on the back of the SPBP identification card applies only to pharmacy services; it does not apply for lab services.

PAYER OF LAST RESORT - SPBP is the payer of last resort. Providers must ask the SPBP enrollee about other coverage and, if applicable, submit the claim to that payer. The PROMISE claims adjudication process will ensure other coverage is utilized prior to SPBP.

ATTACHMENT: Attachment A
Attachment A