



Department of Medicaid

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DATE: November 2019
TO: All Medicaid Providers
 Ohio Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MCPs)
FROM: Dr. Mary Applegate, Medical Director
SUBJECT: Episode of Care Program Update

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) is committed to improving quality of care through value-based programs that focus on patients and their journey of care.

Since 2013, ODM designed and launched 43 different episodes of care that cover a diverse set of conditions and procedures. These episodes of care offer providers transparency in both quality and cost of care based on standard definitions.

ODM has received feedback from clinicians and health systems upon which the agency can base improvements in the episodes of care program. As part of the refining process, ODM is focusing on specific sources of value that more significantly impact the covered Medicaid populations, as summarized in Table 1:

Table 1

Sources of Value and Related Episodes of Care				
Infant Mortality	Perinatal ¹	Antibiotic Stewardship	URI ¹	
	Neonatal-Low ¹		Otitis Media ¹	
	Neonatal-Medium ²		UTI ¹	
	Neonatal-High		Pediatric Acute LRI ¹	
Population Health	Asthma ¹		Skin and Soft Tissue Infection ¹	
	COPD ¹			
Opioid Prescribing	Low Back Pain ¹		Cardiology	Acute PCI
	Tooth Extraction ¹			Non-Acute PCI
	Headache ¹	CABG		
	Ankle Sprain/Fracture ²	Cardiac Valve		
	Shoulder Sprain/Fracture ²	Surgical	EGD ¹	
	Wrist Sprain/Fracture ²		Colonoscopy ¹	
	Knee Sprain/Fracture ²		GI-Bleed ¹	
	Knee Arthroscopy ²		Cholecystectomy ¹	
	Total Joint Replacement		Breast Biopsy	
Femur/Pelvis fracture procedure ²				

1. Tied to payment for 2019
 2. Tied to Payment for 2020

- The perinatal and neonatal episodes are focused on ideal care to impact pre-term birth, infant mortality and reducing disparity in these outcomes.
- Safety in opioid prescribing is the focus for the next group which encompasses orthopedic, neurologic and dental conditions, underscoring the importance of state guidelines.
- Asthma is the single largest pediatric episode of care, bearing many similarities to the analogous adult COPD episode.
- Antibiotic stewardship is the final population health target for the infection-related episodes.
- The additional episodes focus on cardiologists and surgeons, some of which align with Medicare bundled payments.

Over the next two years, ODM will discontinue the remaining 13 episodes of care listed below. While ODM appreciates the time and energy that advisory groups have dedicated to these episodes, the clinical input reinforces that a claims-based system may reflect a departure of current best practices, rendering these 13 episodes less relevant to existing standards of excellence in care. For these reasons, 11 episodes will be discontinued for the 2019 program year. The two other episodes of care are tied to payment for 2019 and will continue until their planned discontinuation for the 2020 program year, as described in Table 2.

Table 2

Removed from reporting for 2019:	Removed from reporting for 2020:
ODD	ADHD*
Tonsillectomy	Congestive Heart Failure*
HIV	*Currently tied to payment for 2019
Pancreatitis	
Hysterectomy	
Appendectomy	
Diabetic Ketoacidosis	
Spinal Fusion	
Spinal Decompression without fusion	
Breast Cancer Surgery	
Breast Medical Oncology	

The strategic implementation of this value-based payment initiative highlights a population health focus consistent with the State Health Improvement Plan and incorporates best practices in paying for value in health care. We are indebted to all those who assisted in developing this effort and look forward to driving these more focused outcomes together.