Billing Medicare Part B for Social Workers: An Open-Access Guide

The Coalition for Social Work and Health is pleased to share a new resource, Billing Medicare Part B for Social Workers: An Open-Access Guide.

This guide was developed by a workgroup of members and partners of the Coalition for Social Work and Health. This guide outlines key information and opportunities relevant to billing Medicare Part B for social work services. The objectives of this guide are to:

- Describe the historical and policy context of Medicare coverage for social work services. We summarize how Medicare has evolved to include social work services and identify key policies that shape current billing practices.
- Identify billing opportunities and service models for social workers under Medicare Part B. We explore integrated care approaches and behavioral health interventions that qualify for reimbursement, with emphasis on primary care settings. The guide's appendix outlines 62 relevant CPT / HPCPS billing codes relevant to social work services.
- Apply essential billing concepts including coverage criteria, coding standards, and provider enrollment. We describe concepts such as medical necessity, co-insurance, ICD-10 coding, RVUs, and the process of becoming a Medicare provider.
- Evaluate practice settings and collaborative models that impact billing eligibility and reimbursement. We describe how factors like "incident to" billing, facility vs. non-facility settings, and exclusions (e.g., SNFs) influence billing strategies and compliance.

You can access the guide directly here. We encourage users to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format for noncommercial purposes, and only so long as attribution is given to the Coalition for Social Work and Health as the creating body.

We intend to update this guide and complementary resources over time. Please share your insights and feedback with us via this survey. You can also reach out to us directly at chasci@rush.edu.

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