

EL PASO FIRST

Health Plans, inc.

Memo

To: Therapy Service Providers
From: El Paso First Health Plans
Date: May 31, 2017
Re: **Therapy Assistant Rate Reduction Effective July 1, 2017**

Effective July 1, 2017, El Paso First will implement the Therapy Assist rate reduction. Reimbursement for services provided by therapy assistants will be set at 70 percent of the reimbursement for services provided by licensed therapists based on the salary differential between licensed therapists and therapy assistants. In May 2016 Medicaid medical policy changed to require therapy providers to bill all services rendered by a therapy assistant with a modifier to distinguish between services delivered by a licensed therapist and those delivered by a therapy assistant. Please review the required assistant therapy modifiers to be utilized.

Therapy Assistant Modifier

Licensed therapists of each therapy discipline must use the therapy assistant modifier to indicate the services rendered by licensed therapy assistants while attending to Medicaid clients.

- The therapist must submit on the claim the UB modifier in Table D to indicate the PT, OT, or ST service(s) provided by a PT, OT, or speech-language pathology assistant(s) in a 24-hour period to Medicaid clients.
- This modifier is to be utilized as indicated with all physical, occupational, and speech therapy treatment procedure codes.

Table D: Modifier for Use of Therapy Assistants

Modifier
UB

ECl contractors must use the UB modifier to identify therapy provided by a licensed assistant acting under the direction of the Medicaid-enrolled occupational therapist, physical therapist, or speech language pathologist. *The group, co-visit, and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) policies for ECl contractors remain unchanged.*

If you require further information, please contact the Provider Relations Team at 532-3778 ext. 1507 Monday – Friday from 8am -5pm.