

Payment Policy | Lactation Consultations



EFFECTIVE DATE: 04|01|2017

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 04|18|2017

OVERVIEW

For the purpose of this policy, lactation consultations refers to the educational services provided to women who plan to breast-feed but encounter difficulties due to anatomic variations and feeding problems with newborns.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable.

POLICY STATEMENT

Lactation consultations are covered for one of the diagnosis codes listed below as part of an inpatient stay or in the outpatient setting (e.g., clinic or physician's office) when the services is provided by a licensed lactation consultant or physician.

Note: Services provided by a Home Care Agency are covered as part of the home care per diem.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable office visit or preventive services benefit.

Lactation consultations are subject to The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) providing preventive services for women which includes breast-feeding support with no cost sharing when services are delivered by a network provider.

BACKGROUND

The Certified Lactation Counselor® (CLC®) certification identifies a professional in lactation counseling who has demonstrated the necessary skills, knowledge, and attitudes to provide breastfeeding counseling and management support to families who are thinking about breastfeeding or who have questions or problems during the course of breastfeeding/lactation. Rhode Island is one of the few states that will license a CLC.

CLCs are dedicated to the promotion, protection, and support of breastfeeding and human lactation in their work to prevent and solve breastfeeding problems. They understand that breastfeeding works best when it is the cultural norm and when the provider of lactation support and services is culturally competent.

CLCs come from a variety of different educational and employment backgrounds, including mothers, peer counselors, educators, nurses, childbirth educators, doulas, nutritionists, dieticians, midwives, physicians, social workers, public health workers, public administrators, and many others. CLCs work in obstetric and pediatric practice settings, hospitals, public health programs, and independent practices.

CLCs work within a counseling model, understanding that breastfeeding decisions are made by the mother, who may have values and goals different from the counselor. CLCs work as part of the health care team, ensuring appropriate referrals and recommendations.

Rhode Island is one of the few states that will license a CLC. In order to be eligible for certification, candidates in Rhode Island must meet the following qualifications per

Rules and Regulations for Licensing of Lactation Consultants [R23-13.6-LA : Section 3.0

Qualification for Licensure: 3.1 An applicant for licensure as a lactation consultant shall:

- (a) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- (b) Successfully complete an academic and practical program in lactation that is accredited by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners;
- (c) Pass the examination for board certification as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant offered by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, or any successor organization; and
- (d) Currently be board certified as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant.

A health professional may also be certified by the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). An IBCLC is a health care professional who specializes in the clinical management of breast-feeding with extensive formal lactation education and clinical training who has passed an international certification exam and has continuing education requirements in lactation. They may also be called a Registered Lactation Consultant (RLC).

CODING

There is not a specific CPT or HCPCS code that represents a lactation consult and services. Claims must be filed with the following CPT code and a covered diagnosis from the list below:

98960 Education and training for patient self-management by a qualified, nonphysician health care professional using a standardized curriculum, face-to-face with the patient (could include caregiver/family) each 30 minutes; individual patient

Note: CPT coding guidelines regarding time based codes are followed. A unit is obtained when the midpoint is passed. Example, there needs to be 16 minutes of face to face time to bill for 30 minutes.

ICD-10 diagnosis Codes

O92.011 O92.012 O92.013 O92.019 O92.02 O92.03 O92.111
O92.112 O92.113 O92.12 O92.13 O92.20 O92.29 O92.3
O92.4 O92.5 O92.70 O92.79 P92.1 P92.2 P92.3
P92.4 P92.5 P92.8 P92.9

RELATED POLICIES

Preventive Services for Commercial Members

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, June 2017
Provider Update, September 2016
Provider Update, May 2013
Provider Update, August 2012
Provider Update, April 2011

REFERENCES

1. Rules and Regulations for Licensing of Lactation Consultants, [R23-13.6-LAC]
<http://sos.ri.gov/documents/archives/regdocs/released/pdf/DOH/8067.pdf>

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