



Illinois Chapter
INCORPORATED IN ILLINOIS
American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN



Theresa Eagleson
Director
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
201 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62763-0001

May 7, 2021

Dear Director Eagleson:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing with respect to [PA 101-0574](#) (Sen. Laura Fine/Rep. Deb Conroy), which amended the Public Aid Code and Insurance Code to create targeted reimbursement for the Mental Health Collaborative Care Model (CoCM). The law became effective January 1, 2020, and has captured significant interest from healthcare providers, professionals, and patient advocates due to the opportunity the model affords to increase access to mental healthcare for patients in primary care settings. As more collaborative care models are established pursuant to the Public Act, we want to make sure that the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) implements the associated reimbursement coverage for Medicaid fee-for-service and managed care.

To that end, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes describing the work of the collaborative care model were approved by the American Medical Association CPT Editorial Panel in 2017 and referenced in the Act. We request that HFS assigns a reasonable reimbursement to CPT codes 99492, 99493, 99494, and G0512.

By integrating mental health services into the primary care setting, the CoCM is:

- Clinically significant and cost-efficient, because it reduces productivity loss and health care utilization;
- Improves patients' quality-adjusted life years; and
- Reduces barriers to access, improves service quality and lowers healthcare expenditures.

As advocates for mental health service delivery, we have witnessed research spanning three decades that identified one model in particular—the CoCM—as being effective and efficient in delivering integrated care. In addition, two addenda reflect the broad support of healthcare providers, through examples of functioning models in the *Synchronicity Report* and a three-part series on behavioral health published in *Illinois Family Physician* magazine.

We look forward to your leadership in implementing this law.

Sincerely,

Gordana Krkic, CAE
CEO and Chief Advocacy
Officer
Illinois Academy of Family
Physicians

Jennie Pinkwater, MNM
Executive Director
Illinois Chapter, American
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cc: Sol Flores, Deputy Governor, State of Illinois
Medicaid Legislative Working Group