

SELF-TREATMENT OR TREATMENT OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS

Scope

This policy applies to:

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Washington | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicare | |

Policy

Original Effective Date: 08/01/2013

Kaiser Permanente will not reimburse for services when physicians treat themselves or an [immediate family member](#). (Exception: reimbursement may be made in an [emergency situation](#) if there is no other proper medical staff available.)

Billing/Coding Guidelines

The provider should not charge or make a claim for, or receive compensation for such service from the patient or from Kaiser Permanente plans on the patient's behalf.

Policy Definitions

Emergency Situation - When an individual is experiencing severe suffering, or is at risk of sustaining serious bodily harm if medical intervention is not promptly provided and no other proper medical care is available.

Immediate Family Member(s):

- Spouse or partner
- Natural or adoptive parent, child, or sibling
- Stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, or stepsister
- Father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law
- Grandparent or grandchild
- Spouse of grandparent or grandchild
- Any other individual to whom the provider has personal or emotional involvement that may render the provider unable to exercise objective professional judgment in reaching diagnostic or therapeutic decisions.

Providers – Any licensed provider, including, but not limited to:

- Chiropractors
- Licensed practical nurses
- Massage therapist
- Medical assistants
- Nurse anesthetists
- Nurse midwives
- Nurse practitioners
- Occupational therapists
- Pharmacists
- Physicians
- Physician assistants
- Psychologists
- Physical therapists
- Registered nurses
- Social workers
- Speech therapists

Treatment – The performance of any controlled act including ordering and performing tests, making and communicating a diagnosis, and prescribing medications.

Prerequisite(s)

Not applicable

References

[Medicare Benefit Policy Manual](#), Chapter 16- General Exclusions From Coverage (Section 130)

[Opinion 8.19 - Self-Treatment or Treatment of Immediate Family Members Code of Medical Ethics](#) American Medical Association Code of Ethics

[Washington State Medical Association Policy Compendium](#), Physician Rights and Responsibilities, Page 82

Frequently Asked Questions

Not applicable

Revision History

04/22/22 – Updated to correct hyperlinks and formatting

Note: This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, we may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to services being delivered in a particular case. Further, the policy does not cover all issues related to reimbursement for services rendered to our enrollees as legislative mandates, the provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents, and the Provider Manual all may supplement or in some cases supersede this policy. This policy may be modified from time to time by publishing a new version of the policy on Kaiser Permanente provider website; however, the information presented in this policy is believed to be accurate and current as of the date of publication.