

Billing and Coding Mechanics – ECHO Session 2 Q&A

1. Does Medicaid reimburse for Z codes? Is there a payment schedule for Z codes?
 - a. There is no requirement for Medicaid or other payers to reimburse for Z codes; however many states and Accountable Care Organizations are considering non-Fee-For-Service (FFS) payment models and providing value-based reimbursements for certain services.
2. Is it easier to implement In-Lieu of Services (ILOS) in a state with managed Medicaid or a state without managed Medicaid?
 - a. Nearly all states are currently considering a model of In Lieu of Services. Administratively, it may be easier for the state to delegate the responsibility to MCOs. However, state Medicaid is still ultimately responsible. That said, states with Medicaid managed care and those without will be considering a In Lieu of Service model in the future. It is important to engage with Medicaid early.
3. How can CBOs gain access to claims history? The plan would need to provide that, correct?
 - a. The health plan would need to provide the claims data for enrolled participants to do the comparative analysis. If the plan did not want to exchange the claims history, they would need to agree to conduct the analysis and provide the output to determine effectiveness. It is important that CBOs express the need to conduct the evaluation and the process that all parties agree to get the evaluation complete.
 - b. In states with Health Information Exchanges (HIE), CCHs may be able to receive claims from the HIE. The CCH may be required to establish a process to share data with the HIE which may include ensuring consent to share data.
4. With the lag in claims processing, how can CBOs prove cost effectiveness in a timely manner?
 - a. Most health plans have a 90-day period for claims submission. However, Medicare has a 1-year period. As a result, it is easier to conduct the analysis for Medicaid MCOs and Medicare Advantage plans because of the 90-day standard. It becomes harder with Medicare because of the lag in claims up to 1 year.
5. What Z code can be used for food deserts?
 - a. The Z code for “Other specified lack of adequate food” is Z59.48.