

Modernizing Substance Use Disorder Coverage in Medicare: A Clinical Perspective

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ASAM Annual Conference, April 1, 2022



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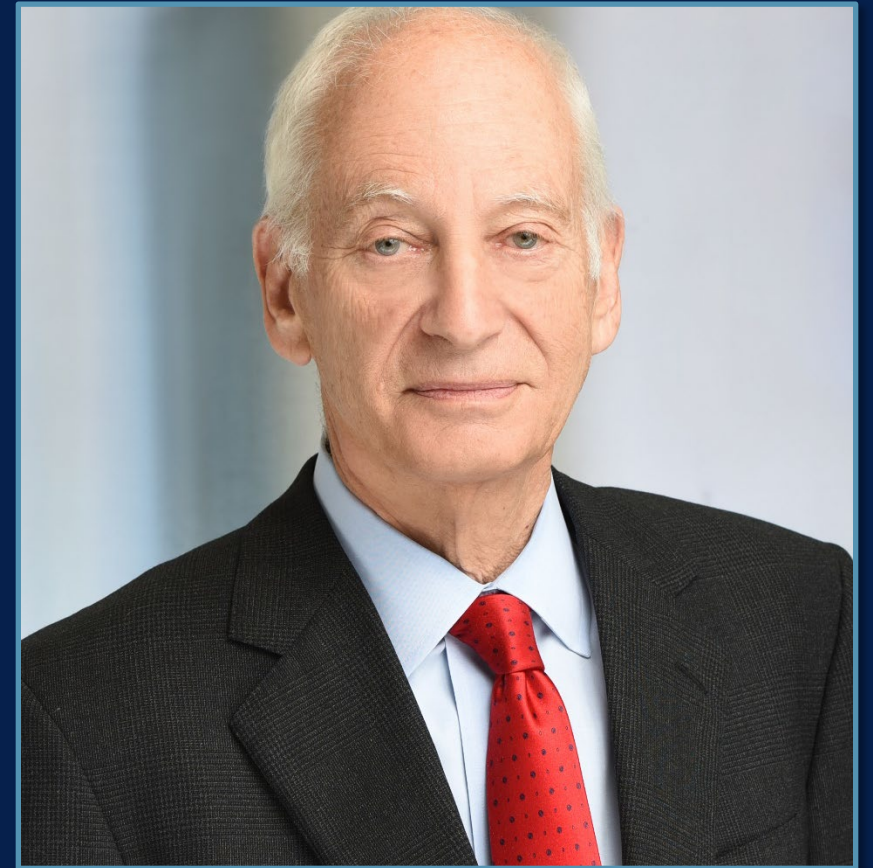
Disclosure Information

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- ◆ No disclosures



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Learning Objectives

- ◆ To provide a clinical illustration of the policies and data in the two previous presentations

Patient Scenario #1: 62 y.o.

- ◆ Married, childless blue-collar male retired at age 55
- ◆ Daily drinking for 20 years. After retirement began drinking earlier in day progressing to morning drinking
- ◆ Hypertension, adult onset diabetes: increasing irregularity of medication as drinking escalated
- ◆ Referred by PCP → outpatient withdrawal management **WITH** extended on-site monitoring, intensive outpatient rehabilitation, continuing care, engagement in recovery support community → Sustained Remission

Scenario #1: Insurance Reimbursement

- ◆ Deductible and copays waived for all outpatient SUD services
- ◆ Copays waived for all medical services as long as patient remained in SUD treatment

Patient Scenario #2: 65 y.o.

- ◆ Same clinical presentation as Scenario #1 except that patient waits to age of 65 to seek treatment
- ◆ Services not reimbursed:
 - ◆ Outpatient withdrawal management **WITH** extended on-site monitoring, intensive outpatient rehabilitation,
- ◆ Services reimbursed:
 - ◆ Outpatient withdrawal management **WITHOUT** extended on-site monitoring
 - ◆ Non-intensive outpatient services
 - ◆ Inpatient hospitalization

Provider Billing Problem

- ◆ If Medicare is primary, billing maximums are determined by Medicare and secondary insurance cannot exceed them
- ◆ If Medicare does not have billing codes for Outpatient WM With Extended On-Site Monitoring or for Intensive Outpatient, it uses other codes with dramatically lower values
- ◆ Only feasible option for provider is to:
 - ◆ Opt out of Medicare
 - ◆ Treat patient on a Self Pay basis
 - ◆ Have patient submit bill to Medicare for denial and then submit to secondary insurance for reimbursement.

Final Takeaways

- ◆ The clinical prognosis of patients with SUD is enhanced by insurance coverage that supports effective treatment
- ◆ Some commercial insurance companies protect themselves from the financial burden of repeated SUD treatment by providing incentives for patients to complete a full course of treatment
- ◆ Medicare could improve its cost-effectiveness as a health insurance plan by following the model established by some commercial health insurance companies