

MEDICARE LOW VISION REHABILITATION DEMONSTRATION

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LOW VISION REHABILITATION **DEMONSTRATION**

The purpose of this presentation is to provide some basic information regarding Medicare's Low Vision Rehabilitation Demonstration.

LOW VISION REHABILITATION **DEMONSTRATION**

- **The Low Vision Rehabilitation Demonstration will begin April 1, 2006.**
- **The Demonstration will continue until March 31, 2011.**
- **Participation is voluntary.**
- **Demonstration services are not subject to therapy caps**

Demonstration Sites

The Low Vision Rehabilitation Demonstration will be conducted in 6 locales from across the country.

They are:

New Hampshire

New York City (all 5 boroughs)

Atlanta, GA.

Kansas

North Carolina

Washington State

LIMITATIONS OF COVERAGE

Under the demonstration, eligible beneficiaries will be able to receive up to 9-hours of vision rehabilitation services over a consecutive 90-day period.

Group services will not be covered.

LOW VISION REHABILITATION **DEMONSTRATION**

- **The low vision rehabilitation demonstration is intended to gather information about how services are covered.**
- **The low vision rehabilitation demonstration is not a CMS Coverage Decision.**
- **Local Coverage Decisions regarding vision rehabilitation still pertain, even in demonstration locales**
- **The design of the demonstration is intended to document coverage mechanisms for services provided by alternative vision rehabilitation providers.**

ELIGIBLE PROVIDERS

Low vision rehabilitation services may be provided by:

- 1. Qualified physicians, defined as ophthalmologists or doctors of optometry**
- 2. Qualified occupational therapists, either in private practice or as an employee of the physician or rehabilitation facility.**
- 3. Certified* low vision rehabilitation professionals, including;
low vision therapists, orientation & mobility specialists, vision rehabilitation therapists (formerly called rehabilitation teachers).**
- 4. Qualified rehabilitation facilities, such as outpatient rehabilitation clinics or critical access hospitals.**

****Medicare will only accept certification by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation Professionals (ACVREP) for this demonstration.***

SUPERVISION

Vision rehabilitation services may be provided by qualified providers in appropriate settings, including the home of the patient under “General Supervision”

Only the physician can supervise OTs, LVTs, O&M, and VRTs. OTPPs may not supervise other rehabilitation providers.

PLAN OF CARE

Demonstration-related rehabilitation will be provided under an individualized written plan of care. The plan of care will be reviewed by the supervising physician at least every 30-days.

The plan of care must attest that vision rehabilitation services are medically necessary and the person receiving the rehabilitation is capable of receiving it and deriving benefit.

EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

- **The evaluation of the patient must be done by the supervising physician or OTPP.**
- **LVTs, O&M, and VRTs may not do evaluations for the purpose of developing a plan of care.**
- **Evaluations and assessments should not be billed as a demonstration service.**

ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES

Medicare will cover vision rehabilitation services for eligible Part B, Fee-For-Service beneficiaries:

- 1. With a medical diagnosis of moderate to severe visual impairment that is not correctable by glasses or surgery, including blindness.**
- 2. When medically necessary.**
- 3. When prescribed by a qualified physician (ophthalmologist or optometrist) under an individualized plan of care.**
- 4. When the beneficiary is capable receiving rehabilitation and of deriving benefit.**
- 5. Who live in one of the designated demonstration locales.**

CLAIMS SUBMISSION

- **Claims for vision rehabilitation must be submitted by the supervising physician or rehabilitation facility, or by an occupational therapist in private practice.**
- **Eligible claims must contain the appropriate “G-Code” for the demonstration.**
- **The patient must reside in one of the demonstration locales and the supervising physician must practice in one of the demonstration locales.**

REIMBURSEMENT

- **G9041 – Occupational Therapist \$28.04/15 minutes**
- **G9042 – Orientation & Mobility \$14.97/15 minutes**
- **G9043 – Low Vision Therapist \$14.97/15 minutes**
- **G9044 – Vision Rehab Therapist \$ 12.81/15 minutes**

RESOURCES

Additional information can be found at:

www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts

Click on Medicare Demonstrations and
conduct a search for upcoming
demonstrations or active demonstrations

RESOURCES

For additional guidance go to:

www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles/MM3816

RESOURCES

Please refer all claims and billing questions to your Medicare carrier or fiscal intermediary.

Send demonstration-related question to:

visiondemo@cms.hhs.gov