

Optum Call re Per Diem 2/22/16

(See related PowerPoint slides)

1. **How does this comply with 2706?**
2706 addresses access but not actual reimbursement. Optum's interpretation of 2706 is that the per diem fee structure is not covered by 2706.
2. **Will there be a co-pays in addition to the \$55?**
Copays will be handled the same as under fee for service. Copays will still apply.
3. **Is it the per diem amount the same across NC?**
Yes
4. **Includes x-rays and exams?**
The per diem amount covers exams and xrays as well as any treatment.
5. **Will DME be paid separately as it was under fee for service?**
Yes- in some cases.
6. **Is there a deductible?**
Yes- still applies.
7. **What about non-covered services such as cold laser etc.?**
As long as the patient knows in advance and agrees (document that), and it is clinically appropriate, the doctor can make arrangements outside of the per diem for the patient to pay for non-covered services.
8. **What if the doctor charges less than the per diem amount?**
"Reimbursement rates for Covered Services will be the lesser of: (a) the Customary Charges for Covered Services that a provider would ordinarily charge another person regardless of whether the person is a Member, or (b) this fee schedule."
9. **Is there another step in the evolution of reimbursement models still to come?**
The per diem model is an interim step in the ultimate goal for Optum to reimburse based on "episodic care". This will be a global fee for an episode of care, similar to what we might think of as a "case fee". There is no firm timeline for implementation to episodic care reimbursement but Optum will not implement in 2016.
10. **Additional Comments:**
 - a. Optum is committed to this system having no negative impact on tier levels. In fact, many doctors will increase their tier status.
 - b. Optum has no plan or desire to reduce the per diem fee amount. They stated that they want it to increase for more complex cases.

- c. None of this impacts Medicare Advantage.
- d. Optum believes this move to per diem will have little impact on doctor's incomes and may result in increases or decreased overhead.