

**BLBA BULLETIN NO. 18-02**Issue Date: **APR 09 2018**

Expiration Date: Indefinite

Subject: Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services for Treatment of Black Lung Disease

Background: Until now, the Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation (DCMWC) has required the pre-approval of pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) services for treatment of black lung disease. This included both approval of each individual treatment facility's PR protocol, as well as approval of services for each individual miner. As a consequence of these requirements, very few PR providers have applied for approval by DCMWC, and very few miners have received this treatment service. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted new, less restrictive procedures in 2010 to cover PR services under the Medicare program.

Purpose: To streamline our in-facility pulmonary rehabilitation procedures and provide appropriate treatment to our miner beneficiaries, DCMWC is now adopting procedures consistent with those implemented by Medicare. The updated DCMWC procedures will streamline both the provision of PR services by providers and reimbursement for those services. This should enhance the ability of medical providers to manage their patients' care. The facility and the miner will no longer be required to undergo separate pre-certification processes.

These updated procedures will also enable providers to use a single code for billing of in-facility pulmonary rehabilitation services instead of complex billing code requirements formerly in effect, thereby reducing paperwork requirements for both the provider and DCMWC.

The major changes include:

- Discontinuation of review and pre-approval of a PR provider's protocol.
- Discontinuation of the List of Approved PR providers.
- Certificates of Medical Necessity (CMN) are no longer required for PR.
- Discontinuation of pre-approval Diary Action Codes.

References: 20 CFR 725.701, 725.706, 725.707

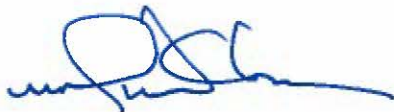
Applicability: All DCMWC Personnel.

Action:

- When an inquiry regarding in-facility PR services is received, the claims staff will contact the inquirer, explain the new procedures and send them a copy of the attached letter.
- Inform miner beneficiaries who inquire about PR to obtain a referral from their physician because DCMWC no longer restricts the beneficiaries to a list of pre-approved providers.
- DCMWC and its bill processing contractor will establish a tracking mechanism to report on PR usage and identify individual patients for follow-up in accordance with 20 CFR 725.707(b).
- Remove and discard BLBA Procedure Manual Chapter 3-603, and PM Exhibits 809, 814, 815, 816, and 817.

Please contact the Chief of Branch of Standards, Regulations and Procedures if you have any additional questions.

Disposition: Retain this Bulletin until further notice.



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Distribution: All DCMWC Staff
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