

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Out of Network Restriction of Psychiatrists

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2016

Approved by the Assembly, November 2016

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue:

Managed care activities (and low reimbursement rates) have led psychiatrists to drop out of networks and treat patients as nonparticipating providers. A significant number of those psychiatrists continue to provide ongoing treatment to patients with insurance, at the request of the patient. Some payers are implementing policies that prohibit payment for prescriptions ordered by non-participating psychiatrists. This action may result in impeding access to necessary care; patients may choose to forego filling their prescriptions or other services because of the resulting financial burden.

POSITION:

The American Psychiatric Association opposes the denial of payment for prescription of a medical necessary drug or service covered by a third party payer solely on the basis of the status of the network participation of the duly licensed physician ordering it. In order to facilitate access to necessary medical care, the American Psychiatric Association will pursue regulation or legislation to prohibit any insurer from writing individual or group policies which deny or unreasonably delay coverage of medically necessary drugs or services solely on the basis of the network participation of the licensed healthcare provider ordering the drug or services.

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