

Funding to Complete the Department Approved IATP Instrument

Recommendation: Up to an identified amount of provider time spent completing documentation of the Department approved IATP Instrument (currently the IM+CANS) shall be billable at the established reimbursement rate for the IATP service or a rate that would be equal to that time period of IATP service, whether or not the client is present.

Rationale: The IM+CANS is a tool that does not lend itself to the flow of a skilled clinical interview and therefore requires additional time to transfer gained information and assessment knowledge to the required form. The IM+CANS is intended to align the language of providers and encourage client focused clinical interviewing. The current reimbursement methodology does not reflect this intent and encourages the IM+CANS to be used as a structured interview tool. A documentation rate would allow the IM+CANS to be used as a communication tool, providing time to translate clinical interview, assessment and treatment planning material to the tool. While it can be completed with the client present in the current service rules, this often results in an artificially rigid and uncomfortable assessment process for the client, disrupting the development of the therapeutic alliance and impairing the client and/or family's comfort and engagement in the therapeutic process.

While the reimbursement rate for the IATP service has been elevated in an attempt to cover additional costs of this activity, the current rate does not cover the additional time required to complete the tool as well as the additional, higher-cost expenses of the LPHA activity in providing the IATP service or the expenses for LPHA review and approval of the document.