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To: Dermatology Providers
From: IEHP – Health Services
Date: June 20, 2024
Subject: **Billing Code Guidance – Phototherapy and Photochemotherapy**

Our Utilization Management (UM) team recently performed a review of prior authorization requests and their corresponding claims. As a result of our audit, **discrepancies have been found in billing, specifically, for phototherapy and photochemotherapy services.**

Please note:

- If a photo-enhancing chemotherapy agent **is not intended** to be used; the **phototherapy (CPT code 96900)** should be used.
- If the clinical documentation **does not support the need for photochemotherapy**, CPT code 96910 will be denied.

Please reference the key for various CPT codes related to dermatology services:

Billing Code	Dermatology Service
CPT code 96900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phototherapy indicates that actinotherapy defines the basic service of treating a patient with a UV light unit. This does not involve application of topical medications while the patient is in office. • If the application of topical photo-enhancing products occurs outside the office, the <u>requirements of photochemotherapy are not met</u> and CPT 96900 should be submitted.
CPT code 96910	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photochemotherapy indicates the addition of a photo-enhancing chemotherapy agent (tar, petrolatum, distillates of petrolatum) to initiate phototherapy treatment while the patient is in office.
PUVA code 96912	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photosensitizing psoralen medication followed by UVA treatment.

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