

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
Bureau of Policy, Planning and Program Development

**Policy Clarification**

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*Issue Clarification #* 01-14-01

*Applicability:* All

*Date of Receipt:* 01-15-2014

*Source Documentation:* 55 PA Code, Chapter 1223

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***Submitted by:*** Northeast Field Office

***County Authority:*** All

***Topic Area:*** Payment for Diagnostic Laboratory Services in Outpatient Drug & Alcohol Clinics

**Question/Issue:**

Is the cost of diagnostic laboratory services used to detect and/or monitor the use of drugs included in the outpatient drug and alcohol clinic visit fee?

**Background/Context Provided within the Request :**

55 PA Code, Chapter 1223 established Medical Assistance (MA) Program regulations for all Outpatient Drug and Alcohol Clinic Services including payment for methadone maintenance treatment services provided in licensed Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTP).

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***OMHSAS***

**Answer/Response:**

Yes, the clinic visit fee includes payment for diagnostic laboratory tests used and/or to monitor a consumer's use of illegal drugs, improper use of legal drugs, or use of alcohol in both the HealthChoices and Fee-For-Service Programs and cannot be billed as a separate service.

55 PA Code, Chapter 1223.52(b)(2) states "a drug or biological furnished to a clinic patient for therapeutic purposes during a clinic visit, diagnostic laboratory services used to detect the patient's use of drugs, and supplies provided to the outpatient are included in the clinic visit fee." This paragraph does not apply to documented, medically necessary tests for pregnancy and medical conditions such as hepatitis, anemia and AIDS. OMAP Bulletin #28-00-3 states that clinics may not have

use. These services are included in the Medical Assistance payment to the clinics. Additionally, Appendix BB of the HealthChoices Program Standards and Requirements contains MA regulations and policies that are not applicable to the program. Appendix BB does not waive Section 1223.52(b)(2).

*Ellen S DiDomenico*

Director, Bureau of Policy, Planning, & Program  
Development

*2/11/14*

Date Issued