NEW vs. ESTABLISHED PATIENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FEES

DEFINITION OF NEW VERSUS ESTABLISHED PATIENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FEES:

Professional services are those face-to-face services rendered by physicians and other qualified health care professionals who may report evaluation and management services reported by a specific CPT code.

New Patient: A new patient is one who has not received any professional services from the physician/qualified health care professional or another physician/qualified health care professional of the exact same specialty and subspecialty who belongs to the same group practice, within the past three years.

Established Patient: An established patient is one who has received professional services from the physician/qualified health care professional or another physician/qualified health care professional of the exact same specialty and subspecialty who belongs to the same group practice, within the past three years.

NOTE:
- When APN’s and PA’s are working with physicians, they are considered as working in the exact same specialty and exact same subspecialties as the physician.
- No distinction is made between new and established patients in the emergency department.
- For Illinois Medicaid: “A participant may be designated as a ‘new patient’ only once in a lifetime by an individual practitioner, partner of the practitioner or collectively in a group regardless of the number of practitioners who may eventually see the participant.”