

Sent on behalf of Julia Soto, Systems of Care QM Manager

**\*ATTENTION IF YOU DIAGNOSE, USE OR ENTER DIAGNOSIS IN AVATAR\***  
**\*\*EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY\*\***

Hello Everyone,

There have been changes at the state level regarding the use of some diagnosis codes, that we use in our system. **Effective immediately** the following changes are in effect for **both outpatient and inpatient** settings:

- ICD10 Diagnosis **code R69**, Diagnosis Deferred (Illness unspecified) , has been **DELETED** from the covered diagnosis list. **Please stop using this code immediately**. Continued use of this code will result in our billings being denied at the state level.
  - This code was previously used for up to 30 days during the assessment/crisis period while a formal diagnosis was being formulated.
- NEW ICD10 Diagnosis **code Z03.89** now has a description of "Encounter for Observation for Other Suspected Disease and condition ruled out." **This code should be used in place of R69**, where appropriate, **for up to 30 days** for the assessment/crisis evaluation period
  - Examples for use of Z03.89 ICD-10 diagnosis code may include: when providing crisis intervention, crisis stabilization, or during the assessment phase of a beneficiary's treatment when a diagnosis has yet to be established.
  - It is important to note that this new code **should not be used for more than 30 days**, while the assessment is being completed. **Within 30 days an updated diagnosis should be entered into the system.** Services provided after 30 days with a Z03.89 diagnosis code will be denied at the state level for reimbursement.

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