

GPSC Update May 2011

Chronic Pain and Substance Abuse and/or Addictions as Axis One Diagnoses for GPSC Mental Health Initiative (14043, 14044, 14045, 14046, 14047, 14048, 14049)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does “Chronic Pain” qualify as an Axis I diagnosis for the GPSC Mental Health Planning Fee (14043)?

Chronic Pain qualifies as an Axis I diagnosis only when it is present in association with a psychological condition (DSM 307.80, 307.89)

When chronic pain is present due only to a physical condition and without associated psychological condition(s), it is an Axis III diagnosis and does not qualify for the GPSC Mental Health Planning Fee (14043).

In addition, if the Mental Health Planning Fee (14043) is billed for a patient who does have an associated psychological condition, all other criteria of the 14043 Planning Fee must be met. These include: (A complete description of the 14043 Mental Health Planning Fee is available in the GPSC Billing Guide available online at www.gpsc.bc.ca)

- The billing physician must be the GP who accepts responsibility for the ongoing longitudinal care for that patient
- A full assessment that includes:
 - A detailed review of the chart, history, and current therapies
 - Psychiatric history and mental state examination
 - The use of and results of validated assessment tools for the psychological disorder and, in this case, the pain disorder
 - DSM-IV Axis I confirmatory diagnostic criteria
 - A summary of the condition and a specific plan for that patient’s care
 - An outline of expected outcomes
 - Linkages with other health care professionals as appropriate
 - A time frame for re-evaluation of the Mental Health Plan
- Communication of the plan to the patient and/or patient’s medical representative, and to other health professionals as indicated

2. Does Substance Abuse and/or Addictions qualify as an Axis I diagnosis for the GPSC Mental Health Planning Fee (14043)?

Both Alcohol Dependency (303) and Substance Abuse (non-nicotine) (304) qualify as Axis I diagnoses.

If the Mental Health Planning Fee (14043) is billed for a patient with either Alcohol or Substance abuse issues, all other criteria of the 14043 Planning Fee must be met. These

include: (A complete description of the 14043 Mental Health Planning Fee is available in the GPSC Billing Guide available online at www.gpsc.bc.ca)

- The billing physician must be the GP who accepts responsibility for the ongoing longitudinal care for that patient
- A full assessment that includes:
 - A detailed review of the chart, history, and current therapies
 - Psychiatric history and mental state examination
 - The use of and results of validated assessment tools for the psychological disorder and, in this case, the alcohol and/or substance disorder
 - DSM-IV Axis I confirmatory diagnostic criteria
 - A summary of the condition and a specific plan for that patient's care
 - An outline of expected outcomes
 - Linkages with other health care professionals as appropriate
 - A time frame for re-evaluation of the Mental Health Plan
- Communication of the plan to the patient and/or patient's medical representative, and to other health professionals as indicated