Federally qualified health center and rural health clinic group therapy policy update

This provider bulletin is an update to information in the provider manual. For access to the latest manual, go to www.UniCare.com.

Beginning September 15, 2016, UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. (UniCare) is updating the federally qualified health center (FQHC) and rural health clinic (RHC) group therapy reimbursement policy to align with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Medical Services policy clarification dated July 6, 2016.

This memorandum provides clarification on the billing of group therapy codes 90853 and 90853-AJ for FQHCs and RHCs. Group therapy provided in an FQHC or RHC setting will be paid at the fee-for-service rate by UniCare. These rates are as follows:

- 90853 will be paid at $18.64 for 2016*
- 90853-AJ will be paid at $14.00 for 2016*

This service is carved out of the encounter rate; however, it is still reimbursable by UniCare. In the event a member is provided multiple behavioral health services on the same day, the FQHC or RHC shall be reimbursed the encounter rate. If an individual were to receive group therapy and a nonbehavioral health service, UniCare shall reimburse the encounter rate for the nonbehavioral health service and reimburse for group therapy at the fee-for-service rate.

What if I need assistance?
If you have questions about this communication, received it in error or need assistance with any other item, please contact our Customer Care Center toll free at 1-800-782-0095.

*Rates are subject to change based on direction from Bureau for Medical Services. See attached Bureau for Medical Services Memorandum.