

OUTPATIENT/AMBULATORY HEALTH SERVICES

(Year 35 Service Priorities: #3 for Part A and MAI)

Excerpt from the *Miami-Dade County Office of Management and Budget Grants Coordination/Ryan White Program FY 2025 (Year 35) Service Delivery Manual* for the Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership's Community Coalition Roundtable; April 28, 2025.

- A. Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services** are core medical services. These services include primary medical care and outpatient specialty care required for the treatment of people with HIV or AIDS. These services focus on timely/early medical intervention and continuous health care and disease treatment and management over time. Primary medical care for the treatment of HIV infection includes the provision of care that is consistent with the Public Health Service (PHS) guidelines. Such care must include access to antiretroviral (ARV) and other prescription drug therapies, including prophylaxis and treatment of opportunistic infections (OI) and combination ARV therapies.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Services are restricted to outpatient services only.

For the outpatient medical services to be considered Ryan White Program allowable, such services must be provided in relation to a client's HIV+ diagnosis, co-morbidity, or complication related to HIV treatment. This program allowable relationship must be clearly documented in the client's medical chart, in the Primary Care Provider's referral to specialty care services, and in any corresponding Ryan White Program In Network Referral or general Out of Network Referral. A list of the most current Allowable Medical Conditions, as may be amended, is included in Section VIII of this FY 2025 Service Delivery Manual for reference. For clarity, one or more of the listed conditions along with one of the following catch-phrases should be included in the licensed medical provider (MD, DO, APRN, PAs) notation and related referral, as appropriate:

- Service is in relation to this client's HIV diagnosis.
- Service is needed due to a related co-morbidity.
- Service is needed due to a condition aggravated or exacerbated by this client's HIV.
- Service is needed due to a complication of this client's HIV treatment.
- Routine diagnostic test conducted as a standard of care (SOC)
 - The SOC should be implemented as recommended by established medical guidelines, including, but not limited to, Public Health Service (PHS), American Medical Association, Health Resources and Services Administration; see Minimum Primary Medical Care Standards for Chart Reviews in Section III of this Service Delivery Manual document or other local guidelines, as may be amended.

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Telehealth services are also available. Please see Section XVI, Additional Policies and Procedures, of this Service Delivery Manual for more details.

I. Primary Medical Care

- 1. Primary Medical Care Definition and Functions:** Primary medical care includes the provision of comprehensive, coordinated, professional diagnostic and therapeutic services rendered by a licensed medical provider (MD, DO, APRN, PAs) who is licensed in the State of Florida to practice medicine to prescribe ARV therapy in an outpatient setting. Outpatient settings include clinics, medical offices, and mobile vans where clients in general do not stay overnight. **Emergency rooms are not considered outpatient settings; therefore, emergency room services are not covered by the Ryan White Part A/MAI Program. Inpatient (hospital, etc.) services are also not covered.**

Although HRSA allows for urgent care center services to be payable through the Ryan White Program, non-HIV related visits to urgent care facilities are not allowable or reimbursable costs within the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services Category (see HRSA Policy Clarification Notice #16-02). The Miami-Dade HIV/AIDS Partnership, as advised by its Medical Care Subcommittee, has elected not to include this component as an allowable service locally. This decision was made due to the complex logistics involved in limiting this component to the treatment of HIV-related services, as required by HRSA; and the fact that Ryan White Part A/MAI Program-funded Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services subrecipients are required to maintain procedures (i.e., an accessible phone line for clients to call for assistance) for clients who have urgent/emergent health issues after hours.

Allowable activities include: medical history taking; physical examination; diagnostic testing, including, but not limited to, laboratory testing; treatment and management of physical and behavioral health conditions; behavioral risk assessment, subsequent counseling, and referral; preventive care and screening; pediatric development assessment; prescription and management of medication therapy; treatment adherence; education and counseling on health and prevention issues; and referral to specialty care related to client's HIV diagnosis, co-morbidity, or complication of HIV treatment. Services also include diagnosis and treatment of common physical and mental conditions, prescribing and managing medication therapy, education and counseling on health issues, continuing care and management of chronic conditions, and referral to specialty care (including all medical subspecialties if related to the client's HIV diagnosis, co-morbidity, or complication of HIV treatment), as necessary. Chronic illnesses usually treated by primary care providers include hypertension, heart failure, angina, diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), depression, anxiety, back pain, thyroid dysfunction, and HIV.

Visits to ensure readiness for and adherence to complex HIV treatments shall be considered either billable under Medical Case Management or Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services, depending on how the visit occurred. Treatment Adherence Services provided during an Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Service visit shall be reported under the Outpatient/Ambulatory Health Services category (using the appropriate CPT billing code); whereas Treatment Adherence Services provided during a Medical Case Management visit shall be reported in the Medical Case Management service category (using the ADH billing code).

See the complete Service Description for:

- New to Care Clients;
- Limitations on Specialty Testing;
- Client Education;
- Adherence Education;
- Coordination of care; and
- Additional primary medical care services (respiratory therapy and mental health services).

II. Outpatient Specialty Care

- 1. Outpatient Specialty Care Definition and Functions:** This service covers short-term ambulatory treatment of specialty medical conditions and associated diagnostic procedures for program-eligible clients who are referred by a primary care provider through a Ryan White Program In Network Referral, OON referral, or prescription referral. Specialty medical care includes cardiology, chiropractic, colorectal, clinical psychiatry, dermatology, ear, nose and throat/otolaryngology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, hepatology, infectious disease, orthopedics/rheumatology, nephrology, neurology, nutritional assessments or counseling (performed by a Registered Dietitian), obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology/optometry, pulmonology, respiratory therapy, urology, and other specialties **as related to the client's HIV diagnosis, co-morbidities, or complications of HIV treatment (see Allowable Medical Conditions List in Section VIII of this FY 2025 Service Delivery Manual).**

Additional medical services, which may be provided by other Ryan White Program subrecipients, may include outpatient rehabilitation, podiatry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy as related to the client's HIV diagnosis, co-morbidities, or complications of HIV treatment. Pediatrics and specialty pediatric care are included in the list of specialties above. A Mental Health Services provider may also make referrals to clinical psychiatry. **(IMPORTANT NOTE: Referrals to outpatient specialty care services for ongoing treatment must include documentation or a notation to support the specialty's relation to the client's HIV diagnosis, co-morbidity, or complication of HIV treatment.)**

See the complete Service Description for Other Specialty Care Limitations Guidelines:

- Chiropractic services;
- Podiatry services;
- Optometry and ophthalmology services;
- Acupuncture services (to support limited acupuncture services for program-eligible clients as part of substance abuse treatment services);
- Obstetric services; and
- Pediatric, adolescent and young adult services.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Under the local Ryan White Part A/MAI Program, primary medical care provided to people with HIV is not considered specialty care.