

Help Me With Waivers!

A quick reference guide from First Plan of Minnesota



When should I use a waiver?

- To hold a member liable for services that we consider medically unnecessary or investigative.
- To hold a Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP) or MinnesotaCare member liable for services that are not covered at your office, but may be covered if the member went to another provider.
- If you to refer a fee-for-service member to a nonparticipating provider.

When can I bill the member for these services?

The member must be notified prior to the services being rendered. The member agrees, by signing a waiver, to pay for the service.

Why are Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP) and MinnesotaCare unique?

The Department of Human Services (DHS) regulates member's rights. You cannot bill PMAP or MinnesotaCare members 1) for investigative and medically unnecessary services or 2) for services that are not covered at your office, but may be covered if they go to another provider, such as the primary care clinic.

What is an example of the PMAP and MinnesotaCare unique situation?

- A member comes to your office and does not have a referral from the member's primary care clinic, so the services would not be covered. If the member had received a referral, then the service would have been paid.

What is considered a sufficient waiver?

The waiver must be signed and dated for each encounter before the service is provided. It must identify the specific procedure or service, and advise that the patient would not be liable for these charges unless the waiver is signed. Since blanket waivers are not specific, they are insufficient to meet patient notification requirements.

How do I communicate a waiver to First Plan?

Use the GA modifier to indicate that you have notified a patient and the member has signed a waiver prior to the service being rendered.

See back for sample waivers you may use in your office. The waiver should be incorporated into your usual business forms and should be changed to include your business letterhead.

